

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!

13. ACTION SUMMARY

# No	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1D	Obed Trails Plan	Obed office, Wartburg	Attend Open House, March 11, 4-8 p.m.
1E	Obed acquisition funds	Rep. Zach Wamp	"Tell NPS' SE Regional Office that Obed needs these funds!"
2B	Big S. Fork NRR Trails	Supt. Rolland Swain	"No further trail construction until RTMP is approved!"
3B	State Parks Master Plan	State legislators	"(1) Several reforms needed! (2) Support Kyle/Olden bill!"
3C	Fall Creek Falls watershed	OSM and its bosses	"There is enough info to declare area unsuitable for mining!"
3D	Addition to Frozen Head	Gov. Sundquist, etc (see 3D)	"Additions essential for protecting viewshed and watershed!"
4B	Regs for small streams (ARAPs)	Water Pollution Control Div	Attend meeting in Knoxville, March 2
4C	Pollution from animal factories	State legislators Comm. Hamilton & Wheeler	"Needed: (1) local zoning authority, (2) strict regs!" "We need strict enforcement of CAFO regs!"
5A	Lands Legacy Initiative	State legislators; governor	"Tell Congressional delegation to support Initiative!"
5B	Container deposit study	Your state legislator	"Support Resolution to study litter & recycling problems!"
6A	Proposed Tellico development	TVA -- by March 5 State legislators	"TVA must not give up 853 acres of public lands!" "De-authorize TRDA!"
9A	Oak Ridge Reservation	AFORR or TCWP	Attend AFORR forum April 17
10A	LWCF for land acquisition	Rep. Gephardt; your U.S. Rep	Gephardt: "Thanks for bill!" Your Rep.: "Co-sponsor!"
10C	Arctic Refuge (ANWR)	Your US Repr. and Senators	"Oppose any bills that authorize 3-D seismic testing!"
10D	Redrock Wilderness bill	Your US Repr. and Senators	"Support Hincby-Durbin bill for Utah wilderness!"
10H	Bad Global Warming bill	Your US Senators	"Oppose S.2617!"
11A	TCWP outing, March 20	TCWP (Ed Clebsch)	Arrange to participate
11C	TCWP committees	TCWP (committee chairs)	Join a committee

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Pres. Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111; Fax 456-2461
president@whitehouse.gov

Governor Don Sundquist
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-9872
615-741-2001; Fax 532-9711

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Sundquist
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist:
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-1264
e-mail: senator_frist@frist.senate.gov
Local: 423-602-7977

Sen. Fred Thompson:
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3679
e-mail: senator_thompson@thompson.senate.gov
Local: 423-545-4253

Rep. Zach Wamp:
Phone: 202-225-3271
Local: 423-483-3366

To call any Rep or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.

WHAT IS TCWP -- see p. 18

1. OBED ISSUES

A. Cumberland County Water Supply Study rules out Clear Creek dam

On December 15, the Corps of Engineers presented to us an excellent Cumberland County Regional Water Supply Preliminary Engineering Report. The thorough study investigated 6 alternatives, most of them with a number of sub-alternatives, altogether 17 items. These were compared with respect to (among other things): safe yield (in MGD, i.e., million gallons per day), cost per MGD, assessment of engineering feasibility, and assessment of whether required state and/or federal permits would or would not be obtainable.

By this last criterion, all of 5 new impoundment items -- including the Clear Creek dam and a dam on the Caney Fork -- can be ruled out. Thus, "... obtaining the required permits for the construction of a new impoundment is not likely due to the existence of other alternatives that have the potential to supply the same or greater quantity of water with fewer environmental impacts." Improvements to existing reservoirs (4 sites studied) was considered unfeasible from an engineering point of view. Of 4 large-scale pipelines studied, 3 made the grade on the basis of both the permit and engineering assessment; the least costly of these would use Watts Bar as the water source. Also making the grade was water "harvesting" that would take water during high flow on the Caney Fork and transfer it to a raised Meadow Park Lake (an existing reservoir).

B. But Tier-3 status for the Obed still hangs in the balance

In January 1998, the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) deferred action on the staff recommendation to designate the Obed an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW). At the request of the Cumberland County Executive, they passed a resolution that "Tier 3 (ONRW) designation ... will be deferred contingent upon the findings and conclusions of the long range water supply study currently underway, assuming that the study will contain adequate information for the Water Quality Control Board to fully understand environmental, economic and social impacts of proposed Tier 3 designation."

On January 26, 1999, the Corps made an oral presentation and delivered its report to the WQCB (Don Barger and Marcy Reed attended). But despite last year's resolution, the Board again deferred a decision -- this time until their regular March meeting, for which occasion they requested a

presentation by the Cumberland County Executive, Brock Hill. TCWP and NFCA (Nat'l Parks & Conservation Assoc.) wrote a joint letter to Brock Hill in which we repeated our intention to assist him in pursuing the options of an alternative water supply -- one of the several identified in the Corps study. Because this study found that impoundments on the Obed system would likely not obtain required permits, any proposal to dam an Obed tributary would be doomed to eventual failure -- after causing a great deal of wasted effort and time and hard feelings on all sides. It is therefore in everyone's interest to recognize this now, and to instead enlist help from all parties to secure a speedy alternative solution. We therefore requested the County's support for getting the Obed designated a Tier-3 river at the March meeting of the WQCB.

Unfortunately, Brock Hill has asked both the Crossville City Council and the Cumberland County Commission to pass resolutions requesting that the WQCB delay the Tier-3 designation of the Obed until a decision on the future water supply for Cumberland County is made. Even more unfortunately, the March meeting of the WQCB may be the last chance for getting the Obed designated within the most recent triennial water-criteria review -- after this we may have to wait another 3 years. We hear rumors that the utility districts for Crossville and the rest of the county are feuding as to which alternative they want; and one utility district is still plugging for the Clear Creek dam.

C. Destructive climbing runs wild in Clear Creek and Obed gorges

Recreational climbing is an appropriate activity for a Wild & Scenic River, but only if it is done in accordance with the intent of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, the specific authorizing legislation, and the General Management Plan. In the GMP, almost all developments in the Obed WSR are restricted to existing road crossings, with virtually all the remaining gorge being in the "wild" zone. "Visitors are experiencing a vestige of primitive America -- essentially primitive shorelines and unpolluted waters -- by floating the river, viewing the river and gorge, hiking on trails, and camping along the river and trails without intrusions by motor vehicles and developments."

This desired condition has been violated by some irresponsible members of the climbing community. Ladders up to 30+ feet long have been affixed to the cliffs and are visible from the river and the opposite bluff, vegetation has been cleared from

the base of bluffs, hundreds of steel bolts have been driven into the beautiful sandstone rock (these climbers do not restrict themselves to natural handholds), miles of unauthorized trails have been made and fragile vegetation trampled, a short road and parking lot have been constructed. Without planning or review, these people have established their own destructive infrastructure on the wild lands others have worked so hard to preserve.

Responsible recreational climbing can have its place; what has happened so far does not. The Climbing Management Plan (¶1D) can address these questions, and the National Park Service has a duty to involve the general public -- and not just the climbers -- in its development. NPS must also remember to heed the spirit of the legislation and the provisions of the CMP.

D. Obed WSR documents issued and to be issued

- The Water Resource Management Plan, issued last July, is the first more detailed document to come out of the General Management Plan. It was contracted to TVA, which did a fine job. Critical parts of the document are the Project Statements, which are funding justifications; some have already brought concrete returns, such as gages funded by USGS.
- The Land Protection Plan is being revised. A critical component of this is the easement language, which is currently very weak. As a result, tracts that are not acquired in fee-simple have very poor protection; e.g., timber harvesting is allowed. TCWP will attempt to have input into the revision of the LPP.
- The Trails Plan is being conducted with assistance from the U.T. Dept. of Forestry. At an Open House, scheduled for March 11 (details in Action box, below), information will be offered about the project, and there will be opportunities to exchange information with the planning team. This is the time to make your voice heard about the location and usage of trails within the Obed WSR boundary.

- The Climbing Management Plan. Public meetings will be held in June to announce work on the plan, and workshops will be held in September to discuss the issues. Because of damage that has been done by irresponsible climbers (¶1C, above), TCWP plans to meet with "good" climbers prior to the June meetings in an effort to avert unproductive controversies.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Make your voice heard on the Trails Plan by attending the Open House on March 11, 4-8 p.m. (Eastern Time) at the Obed

offices in Wartburg. Call 423-346-6294 for more information or driving directions.

If you are willing to help with review of the Climbing Management Plan or the LPP (see above), contact Sandra Goss (522-3809) or Chuck Estes (482-7374).

E. The funding situation: good and bad

- Operating funds have been increased, making it possible for the park to hire two interpreters.
- Acquisition prospects, on the other hand, are dismal because the Obed WSR is as low as No. 15 on the priority list for the acquisition funds that get dispensed by the SE Regional Office of the National Park Service. The park has critical acquisition needs, e.g., on the Clear Creek around Barnett Bridge where land (within the designated WSR boundaries but as yet unacquired) is being subdivided and cabins are being built. It takes political pressure to get a park unit moved upon the priority list (see Action box, below).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Rep. Zach Wamp (address on p.2) and tell him that the Obed is a stepchild of the National Park Service's SE Regional Office because it has received less political support than have other park units in the Region. Authorized Obed acquisitions must be completed in order to prevent irreparable damage to the resource.

2. BIG SOUTH FORK TRAILS, etc.

A. General Management Plan

The CMP draft is expected to be released in April. We hope that some of our pre-draft comments (NL225 ¶1A) have been incorporated.

B. Moratorium needed on trail construction

[Based on a communication from Russ Manning]

Russ Manning has begun updating his *Trails of the Big South Fork*, the third edition of which was copyrighted 1995. In the process of researching the update, he has become dismayed at the construction of horse trails -- not only their excessive width (bulldozer-wide, at least) but the fact that they have not been routed so as to minimize environmental impacts. Some horse trails have been bulldozed straight up slopes, causing erosion that exposes rocks and loads stream with silt. Many of these trails were constructed during the tenure of superintendent Lee Davis.

It is evident that we need a moratorium on constructing new trails (and on completing already started trails) until the Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP) has been reviewed and approved. This cannot happen until after the GMP is in place. The RTMP in addition to addressing trail number and location, should also include a policy on trail construction that fosters a conservation ethic and places priority on preserving the natural resource.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Communicate your thoughts on this matter to Superintendent Rolland Swain, BSFNRR, 4564 Leatherwood Ford Road, Oneida, TN 37841.

3. TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

A. State Parks Master Plan: our comments

[Contributed by Jenny Freeman and Marcy Reed]

The 1998 Tennessee General Assembly asked the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC's) Division of State Parks to submit a master plan that outlines the Division's vision and long-range plans for our state parks. Overall, the plan is ambitious, calling for zoning, park classifications, and numerous goals, objectives, performance measures, action items, and long-range plans. The ~~current~~ deadline for this Master System Plan was February 12

Synopsis of TCWP comments (prepared by Jenny Freeman). TCWP was highly skeptical about the ability of the Division to actually implement the amount of detail covered. We liked the new wilderness designations included in the plan, and we also liked other parts, such as emphasis on recycling, and discussion about land acquisition and about the eradication of exotic species from the parks (we suggested they rid the parks of exotic grasses on golf courses).

The plan outlines three park classifications of development: low (7 parks), medium (16), high (11). We encouraged the Division to take all but two parks out of the "high" category and move them to "medium." We also decried the call for "balance" between the "built" environment and the natural environment. It is our opinion that, with public lands at a premium, TDEC should be *unbalanced* in its efforts to protect state lands from development. We reminded the state that it should not be in the business of competing with the private sector in providing recreation opportunities in our parks.

We asked that public input be specifically included in several critical areas of decision-making for the plan: park classification, zoning, the land-acquisition process, development, and review of park strategic management plans. We stressed the need for true park reform that will take parks out of the political arena. We reminded the Division that the most recent surveys indicated the overwhelming majority prefers low-intensity recreation experiences that have little impact on the resource. We also reminded the Division that it must uphold the 1937 enabling legislation, which calls for the protection of the inherent values of the parks.

Several of Marcy Reed's comments addressed the subjects listed under 93B, below. In addition, she criticized at some length the state parks classification system. Classification (low, medium, or high development), as proposed in the draft Plan, reflects the existing development level of a park, or the direction in which the park is currently going. Marcy argued that classification should, instead, be based on the *desired and suitable* development level. Merely continuing in a direction that was taken in the absence of comprehensive, long-range planning is foolish. Reclassification of parks that are currently categorized "high," but that should rightfully be "medium" or "low" because of their fragile ecosystems, could be accomplished by grandfathering the existing developments and allowing no further ones.

Other members of the TCWP State Parks Committee who submitted comments were Joni Lovegrove, Mary Lynn Dobson, and Frank Hensley.

B. Additional comments needed on Master Plan

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

Even though the current period for the State Parks Master System Plan has ended, it's not too late to make our voice heard. The revisions to the plan are being made now by the State Parks Division, and the revised plan will be sent to the legislature.

- You may want to make some of the following points:
- Resort parks and golf courses are *not* self-supporting now. Request that a moratorium be placed on the construction of such new facilities until they can be shown to be fully self-supporting, and until it can be shown that this is what the public wants.
 - Recommend that a state-wide survey be done to determine what is most important to park users. Any new projects should reflect these desires. Because the parks are for all Tennesseans and not

just for local populations, the survey should be designed to determine the desires of people throughout the state.

- The present process for acquiring state lands is cumbersome and slow. The Land Acquisition Reform bill, authored by the Environmental Action Fund and introduced by Sen. Kyle and Rep. Odom, deserves your strong support.
- Currently, there is very little oversight of park managers. Because of this, the parks have often been inappropriately developed, without proper regard to resource protection. There needs to be better overall direction and more accountability for park managers.
- Resource protection should be the primary objective in developing individual park plans, and the plans should be generated with public input from across the state. This would also increase public support.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your state senator and representative to voice some of the above comments on the Plan. Additionally, support the Kyle/Odom bill to reform the land-acquisition process. Addresses and phone numbers are in the recently mailed Political Guide.

C. Fall Creek Falls: Status of the Land Unsuitable for Mining Petition (LUMP)

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

It looks as if our letters and phone calls are making a difference. The LUMP for the Fall Creek Falls watershed appears to have gotten the attention of high-level officials in the Clinton Administration. Additionally, the state is very concerned and is looking for ways to permanently protect the area.

The comment period for the draft EIS for the LUMP has been reopened. No new document has been developed. Comments will (again) be taken on the draft until April 26. We need to keep the pressure on OSM and on OSM's "losses" within the Administration. In the Action box below, we list people you can contact and urge to do all they can to ensure that the petition is granted. The following points need making.

1. It is the position of the petitioners that there is adequate information to make a decision. Mining done on any part of the Sewanee coal seam has always resulted in the formation of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD), and OSM has not proved that they are able to deal with AMD adequately.
2. If OSM does not believe there is adequate information to make a decision, NEPA requires the

agency to get the necessary information and put out a revised draft of the PED-EIS.

3. If OSM insists on proceeding with inadequate information, they must include an option in the PED-EIS that designates the area as unsuitable for mining. Further, they must clarify that the burden of proof for future mining would then fall on those who propose to mine. This would require submittal of full information in a PED-EIS as part of a subsequent Petition to remove the unsuitable-for-mining designation based on a showing that the findings of the initial Petition are no longer valid.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write, call, or e-mail the following list of people, using one or more of the above points, and urge them to abandon the "preferred alternative" and grant the petition.

Secretary Bruce Babbitt
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20240
202-208-7551
bruce.babbitt@ios.doi.gov

Beverly Brock, Supervisor, OSM
530 Gay Street SW, Suite 500
Knoxville, TN 37902
423-545-4103 ext.146
BBROCK@OSMRE.GOV

Kathy Karpan, Director, OSM
1951 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20402
202-208-4006
KKARPAN@OSMRE.GOV

George Frampton, Interim Director
Council on Environmental Quality
360 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-456-6224; FAX 202-456-2710

Vice President Al Gore
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501
202-456-1111
vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Your Congressman and Senators (see p.2)

D. Frozen Head addition

[Based on contribution by Joni Lovegrove]

The State is contemplating the acquisition of 3,200 acres of land in the Flat Fork watershed adjacent to Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area, including the viewshed from the Visitor Center, the southern slope of Bird Mountain and the northern slope of Love Mountain. In November 1997, this land was bought by the Forestland Group from Foust for a high price per acre (\$1,360), and

the State must negotiate an *affordable* cost. Currently, the appraisal for land and timber are in progress.

There is a great deal of competition for land-acquisition funds, with over 40 proposed projects all across the state currently being considered. It is therefore very important to make our voices heard in support of Frozen Head, especially in view of the rumor that Forestland is considering subdividing the land.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Governor Sundquist (address p. 2), urging support for the Frozen Head additions; send copies to Walter Butler, Director of State Parks and to your state legislators (see Political Guide).

E. Pickett additions

The Tennessee Nature Conservancy is beginning acquisition of its largest preserve to date -- a spectacular gorge west of Pickett State Forest in Pickett County. A 1,125-acre tract has already been acquired by donation, and other protection efforts are in progress. The state is negotiating for purchase of the large Cunningham tract nearby (NL225 ¶4A). TCWP's Frank Hensley is monitoring the land-ownership status in that area, encouraging the state acquisition, and working toward achieving some manner of protection for certain other parcels around Pickett that contain outstanding scenery and ecosystems. In mid-January he, and Marcy Reed accompanied U.T. Professor Dave Etnier (a well-known fish authority), state park naturalist Bob Fulcher, and 3 others on a trip to search for the endangered Pale Zone Shiner (*Notropis albizonatis*) in the headwaters of the Little South Fork on the Cunningham tract. Though the fish is found in the Kentucky portion of the river, the day's search for the shiner was unsuccessful. A lot of other aquatic species were collected and Prof. Etnier will return in the spring when water conditions should be more suitable for finding *N. Albizonatis*.

F. Cumberland Trail State Park needs lands

(Contributed by Joni Lovegrove)

Designation of the Cumberland Trail as Tennessee's first linear state park was announced last summer (NL223 ¶2). The core corridor for this 220-mile-long park is projected to be completed in 3-4 years to a minimum width of 25 ft. It will run from near Cumberland Gap in the north to the Prentice Cooper State Forest in the south. Unfortunately, there just isn't enough state acquisition money designated for the CISP to

purchase large tracts encompassing the trail, and it won't be much of a park if adverse developments take place just outside the 25 ft corridor. Much consideration is therefore being given to the formation of land trusts that would acquire tracts currently owned by various timber companies and attractive to potential developers.

The Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC) has received a grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation of Chattanooga to develop an acquisition and development plan, and has partnered with the TN Rail-Trail Conservancy and the TN Parks & Greenways Foundation. Joni Lovegrove, a member of the TCWP Board of Directors, has agreed to serve on the CTC Strategic Council and is in favor of routing as much of the trail as possible through lands that are already in public (state or federal) ownership. Significant portions of the trail will run within the boundaries of the Obed National Wild & Scenic River, the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, and probably Frozen Head State Park & Natural Area. Currently, the State is planning to assign two rangers to the CISP (one of them may be located in Wartburg); as the trail progresses, additional rangers will be assigned.

4. STATE WATER-QUALITY ISSUES (with some forestry issues thrown in)

A. Watershed protection issues to be addressed at upcoming conference

The second annual Tennessee Clean Water Conference is scheduled for the weekend of March 26-28 in Middle Tennessee (Bethany Hill Campground, 25 miles west of Nashville). Sponsored by the Tennessee Clean Water Network and others, it will give citizens across the state opportunities to learn about water-quality and watershed-protection issues and to develop strategies for influencing these issues in a meaningful way. Various types of conference sessions will provide opportunities for groups to organize for success and to network with people from nearby communities.

There will also be a chance to float the Harpeth, to learn about water-quality monitoring, and to listen to music around evening campfires. For more information or to register (you can save by pre-registering before March 13), contact Samantha Pearson at the Foundation for Global Sustainability, P.O. Box 1101, Knoxville, TN 37901, 423-524-4771, e-mail tcwn@tngreen.com, or

egs@korznet.org; or visit the website at <http://www.tnngreen.com/tcwn>

B. Input into regs affecting small streams

Thousands of small streams form our watersheds. These streams are continuously being impacted by construction of roads, buildings, small impoundments, channel shifts and "stabilizations," and agricultural activities. Aquatic Resource Alterations Permits (ARAPs) required for such activities provide for conditions, standards, and terms of periodic review.

For the first time ever, TDEC's Division of Water Pollution Control is developing comprehensive guidelines for issuing these permits - guidelines that will affect the health of our small streams and watersheds for years to come. It is important that you attend one of the scheduled meetings (details in box) to demonstrate public interest, whether or not you plan to speak. Spread the word. For information on how to get a copy of the proposed regulations (and possibly an analysis of them), see box below. We will be asking for an extension of the public comment period, which currently ends March 5.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The nearest one of three meetings is in Knoxville, March 2, at 2 p.m., Environmental Assistance Center, 2700 Middlebrook Pike (Suite 220). The proposed regs can be obtained by calling 423-524-4771, sending an e-mail to tcwn@tnngreen.com, or checking the website <http://www.tnngreen.com>

C. CAFOs (animal factories)

threaten surface and ground water

CAFOs are Concentrated (or Confined) Animal Feeding Operations. While they have been legitimately referred to as factory farms (they're owned and run by large corporations), they are unfortunately being dealt with as farms, rather than factories; emissions from the latter would be easier to regulate. Annually, 1.3 billion tons of animal waste are being produced by feedlots in the USA; that is 5 tons for each American, and constitutes 130 times more animal than human waste.

Unlike human sewage, this waste is *untreated* and carries several harmful pathogens into surface and groundwater, as well as being a source of excessive nitrates and phosphates. A draft strategy by the EPA and USDA was released recently (NL224 T4A). USDA (historically a supporter of corporate agriculture) appears to have

won out, and the strategy, as drafted, will accomplish pitifully little. And pressure to weaken even this minimal plan is coming from the agricultural industry. [Fog Trivia from USA Weekend, 2/19/99: "In Colonial New York City, farmers erected a long wall in what is now Lower Manhattan to control free-roaming hogs. Today the site of this former 'pigpen' is known as Wall Street."]

In Tennessee, CAFOs are virtually unregulated. Pending an Attorney General's ruling, they will probably come under the "Right to Farm" Act, thus allowing them to be located *anywhere*. Zoning laws cannot legally touch farming operations. Water-pollution regulations for CAFOs are weak, and many such operations are subject to only general (rather than individual) permits. The Dept. of Agriculture (TDA) is responsible for reporting violations to TDEC, and critics predict that only the most outrageous situations will ever be reported, and probably only after the damage has already been done. With no zoning options, and weak enforcement at best, Tennessee is likely to become inviting territory for CAFOs. [For more information, we refer you to a thorough, well-researched article in the Tennessean of Feb. '99.]

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Tell your state legislators (addresses in Political Guide) that you are concerned about the problem and that you want (a) local zoning authority over CAFOs, and (b) very strict water and air pollution regulations legislated and enforced. (2) Tell Commissioners Milton Hamilton (TDEC) and Dan Wheeler (TDA) (see Political Guide for contact info) that you want strict regulation and enforcement of CAFO regs. (3) Send a postcard to U.S. Sec. of Agriculture Dan Glickman, calling for a federal moratorium on new CAFOs until the existing ones have been regulated.

D. State targets "Bad Actors" among loggers, but that's a mere bandaid

Forest operators who persistently violate water quality have been termed "Bad Actors" in a recent policy announcement by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) and Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The joint announcement, which was based on a recommendation of the Forest Management Advisory Panel (FMAP, NL224 T3C), characterized "Bad Actors" as repeatedly ignoring Best Management Practices (BMPs), and creating a point-source discharge to waters of the state.

Under the new policy, TDA will refer the problem to TDEC within 48 hours of discovery, and TDEC will initiate any needed enforcement within 72 hours. TDEC can require the violator to cease activity, and to issue an order with a schedule for remediation. The order may contain a civil penalty. The state can notify landowners, environmental groups, and the public of violations. The violator must notify TDA prior to initiating any new forestry activities and must file a work plan. He is also required to complete the Master Logger training program. A "Bad Actors" bill has been introduced in both Houses, sponsored by Senator Cohen and Representative Odom. Further details are not yet known.

While the new policy is commendable (and support of the above bill is clearly recommended), single bad actors are just the tip of the iceberg. Recommendations by the industry-friendly FMAP fit right in with the mindset of the legislature and of TDA, which is pushing off even the disciplining of "bad actors" onto another agency (TDEC) under rules that are water -- and not forestry -- regulations. TDEC has never in the past received a TDA referral to enforce a water-quality violation resulting from failure to apply BMPs.

Announcement of the policy was timed to coincide with publicity about an actual case in which a fine was imposed. The \$69,000 fine was just a slap on the wrist in view of the enormous damage that had been done. Among other things, the logger cleared out 16 of 50 acres owned by a family that had bought the land for its beautiful forests and the purity of the water. Several flowing springs were diverted by the logging. This family had complained to the state on July 24, but nothing was done until January 26. In other cases, complaints may come from outraged neighbors (some of whom have experienced resultant death threats and poisoning of dogs), but most problems are unseen or unreported because TDA does not routinely monitor forestry activities.

The timber industry has been the state's second largest revenue producer (tourism is first), but this prominent status has been due to saw timber used for furniture and flooring. The future adequacy of such saw timber is now threatened by the cutting of forests at an unsustainable rate for chip mills. The saw-timber industry would actually benefit from a number of simple regulations. Unfortunately, such regulations were not recommended by FMAP.

Proposed remedies: (a) a free permit system whereby anyone intending to cut 10 acres or more

must send a notice (including a map) to TDA and file logging and remediation plans; (b) mandatory Best Management Practices and licensing/certification of commercial loggers; (c) an inventory system to track rapidly expanding clear cutting or identify Bad Actors; (d) monitoring of commercial logging by TDA. It would also be good to impose extraction fees to finance enforcement, repair damaged roads, etc.; but that might be hoping for too much!

5. OTHER STATE ISSUES

A. State support needed for a federal funding proposal

Often in these pages have we bemoaned the ever-shrinking funding for land acquisition while more and more precious lands are irrevocably lost to development. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has in the past several years been appropriated at only a small fraction of its authorized \$900 million annually (derived from off-shore oil revenues) (e.g., NL222 §8B). The state portion of the LWCF appropriation has shrunk at an even faster rate than has the total appropriation, to where it has become virtually nonexistent.

Now, Pres. Clinton, as part of his FY 2000 budget proposal, has announced a \$1 billion Lands Legacy Initiative to address the nation's urgent needs for wildlife and resource conservation (this would not replace the LWCF). Over \$500 million of this amount would go for protecting local open spaces and parks, and reducing sprawl.

State and local political support is crucial to the passage of this proposal. Congress must hear about need on the local level, as well as about the need for federal acquisitions, such as those needed to complete the Obed National Wild & Scenic River (see §1E, this NL).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Ask your state legislators (see Political Guide) and Gov. Sundquist (see p.2) to contact the Tennessee delegation in Congress (House and Senate), urging them to support the President's Lands Legacy Initiative. Cite specific places that need to be protected in your area, e.g., the lands around Fall Creek Falls, Pickett, and Cumberland Trail State Parks, and perhaps specific open land areas in your own community. (2) Contact your federal legislators directly (p.2 and Political Guide) making these same points, and also stressing the need to complete

the Obed WSR and other federal lands in Tennessee. It is important to stress that the Lands Legacy Initiative must in no way compete with the Land and Water Conservation Fund (see §10A, this NL) — both are needed.

B. Attempt to authorize study of beverage-container deposits

A resolution has been introduced to set up a committee to study methods of litter reduction/recycling enhancement, including small-container deposits, and to make recommendations to the legislature. Sponsors are Rep. Ken Givens and Sen. Lincoln Davis. The study called for by the resolution is bound to bring out some of the facts on litter and recycling that we summarized in NL225 ¶4E. It can't help but find that beverage-container-deposit legislation is highly effective in recycling, thus reducing litter, land-fill and other costs, as well as consumption of natural resources that are needed for fabricating containers. The ten states that have container-deposit legislation recycled 30 million tons more containers in one year than did the 40 other states combined. The difference is notable even for aluminum cans, which are overall recycled more often than are bottles: for such cans there was an 85% recycling rate in states with deposit laws, as opposed to only 42% in other states.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask your state legislators (see Political Guide) to support the upcoming resolution to study litter and recycling problems. Communicate some of the above facts and tell them that over 70% of Americans support container-deposit legislation (GAO and Hart Research polls). To keep updated on this issue, contact Mary Lynn Dobson (423-354-4924).

C. Exotic Pest Plant Symposium March 18-20

Exotic pest plants have become an increasing threat to our native ecosystems (for related story, see §10E). Tennessee has for some time had an Exotic Pest Plant Council, and this group is now sponsoring a symposium by the newly formed Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council. TCWP is assisting with publicity and by mailing announcements to all members. If you have failed to receive one, contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, e-mail skgass@esper.com. The meeting starts with field trips on March 18, and continues with talks by noted authorities on March 19 and 20, to be held at the Pollard Auditorium in Oak Ridge.

D. Status of Big Brush #2 mine lawsuit

Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM), with participation and financial backing by TCWP, two years ago sued the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) for issuing a permit for the Big Brush #2 mine that failed to require adequate water-quality monitoring, among other things (NL218 ¶5B). SOCM has now claimed victory on the technical issues of the lawsuit. The court has decreed that any changes in the water-monitoring plans will require public notice and the opportunity for public comment. Plaintiffs also won on the placement of some significant water-monitoring wells in "hot spots" that will quickly detect acid mine drainage and other toxic substances. Still to be settled is the question of cost of the lawsuit, some of which will hopefully be awarded to plaintiffs.

E. Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation

This newly organized foundation was launched in September 1997 and has recently started on actual projects. Its long-range goal is to help create an interconnected system of state parks, greenways, and wildlife areas from the Mississippi River to the Great Smoky Mountains. The foundation raises private funds for the following types of projects:

- Purchase and protection of scenic properties throughout Tennessee, but especially those critical to the protection of the state's 53 parks and 51 natural areas. Its first project was to initiate acquisition of a 420-acre parcel in the center of the beautiful vista from Millikan's Overlook at Fall Creek Falls.
- A grant program entitled "Tennessee State Park Connections," which encourages greenway connections from nearby communities to one of Tennessee's state parks or natural areas. This grant program is already fully funded for Middle Tennessee, but not yet for East or West Tennessee. Grants must be matched and will range from \$500-2,500 each. Only a simple 3-page proposal is required.
- Assistance to land owners in portions of the state where there are no functioning land trusts, such as the Cumberland Plateau. The Foundation will, further, assist in the establishment of new land trusts. The Foothills Conservancy (423-681-8326), also, has offered to assist in organizing a Cumberland Plateau land trust.

Contact information: Kathleen Williams, Executive Director, Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation, 2704 12th Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37206; phone 615-386-3171, fax 615-269-8986; e-mail tenngreen@earthlink.net

6. TVA: ANOTHER TELlico CONTROVERSY; NEW FUNDING MIX, and more

A. *Oppose huge development of public land on Tellico Reservoir*

When land is condemned, it is presumed to be in the service of the public good. When TVA impounded the Little T in the late 1970s to make Tellico Reservoir, it condemned ~22,000 acres in excess of what was needed to create the lake. Of this, 12,649 acres (57.5%) was conveyed for residential, commercial, economic, or public recreation uses, including 10,582 acres controlled by the Tellico Reservoir Development Agency (TRDA), which was created by the Tennessee legislature in 1982. Now, an outfit called Tellico Landing, Inc. wants over 1000 acres of public land -- 853 acres (in a 7-mile-long strip) managed by TVA and 217 acres managed by TRDA -- to develop high-density housing, "theme hubs", a 20,000-seat amphitheater, 3 golf courses, hotels, a convention center, etc. The developers already have an option on the TRDA lands, but have recently said that they would wait to do anything until a decision was made on the TVA lands.

TVA is planning to do an EIS on the proposal and held a scoping meeting on January 28. At least 800 people showed up, most of them incensed about the proposal. March 5 is the current deadline for the scoping process, and it is very important to make your voice heard because Tellico Landing, Inc. is doing a big sales job, with about 20 "information sharing events" planned. There are several points that can be made.

- This land was condemned for the public good, and not for the private profit of developers. It was bought with tax dollars, and belongs to us, the public.
- The recently approved Blended Alternative of TVA's Shoreline Management Initiative does not allow any loss of public shoreline. Instead, under a "maintain-and-gain" policy, rights in one place can only be exchanged for those of equal or greater public value of land in another place, provided there is either no net loss of public shoreline, or actually a gain.
- The Tellico master plan, which balances development with preservation and scenic beauty, should not be changed without compelling reason.
- Loudon County is not economically depressed. On the contrary, a very large number of industries have located in the county over the past 10 years and economic growth is at an all-time high, with only 2.6% unemployment. New jobs paying near minimum wage (as is true for most resort jobs) would

actually be a detriment to the county because of additional services required. There is thus no justification for providing public land for private development.

- Public land all over is being lost at an alarming rate. As the *News-Sentinel's* Bob Hodge recently put it: "What's public today is somebody's bathroom with a Jacuzzi tub tomorrow." The greatest public good will be served by providing free access to unspoiled land and water.

For additional information, contact Virginia Tolbert (vtolbert@usit.net).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) By March 5, send your comments to "Tellico Reservoir Land Management Plan," TVA Land Management, 804 Hwy 321 N, Lenoir City, TN 37771, or e-mail to slakera@tva.gov. (2) Contact your state legislators (see Political Guide) and urge them to disauthorize TRDA.

B. *New mixes for funding the non-power program*

Funding for TVA's resource (non-power) program just squeaked by with unconventional sources for FY 1999, and it looks as though it'll squeak by again (with a different mix of sources) for FY 2000. In FY 1999 (for which the regular TVA appropriation was zeroed), \$50 billion derive from last year's water resources appropriations bill (which typically funds Corps of Engineers projects), and additional money comes from savings brought about by a Congressionally authorized refinancing of some outstanding TVA loans.

For FY 2000, the Administration budget contains only \$7 million for TVA's non-power program, and this sum is earmarked for operation of Land Between the Lakes. The rest of the needed money will have to come from the power program; but with the savings from loan refinancing (about \$100 million) again being available this year, Chairman Crowell has pledged to maintain the non-power program without layoffs and without having to resort to a rate increase. Rep. Clement (D-TN) and other Congressmen have questioned the fairness of making TVA ratepayers pick up the expense of flood control, navigation, etc., when other parts of the country are having such programs paid for by federal funds.

The specific power-program money that will be paying for the non-power program has been identified. Thus, in early February, TVA created a

new division, called River Systems Operations and Environment, that merges hydroelectric operations (which produce ~14% of TVA's power), environmental research, and non-power projects. Will it be enough? And who will call the shots? Some of us have been worried that (a) there might be stepchildren within the non-power family (e.g., resource protection, watershed projects, etc.), and/or (b) that there might be pressure to raise revenues by the sale of public lands around the lakes (see ¶6A, above).

C. TVA's dilemma on cleaning up the very dirty air

TVA's coal-fired power plants are the primary air polluters in the region, and TVA must face the tough question of how to be a national utility model worth preserving and yet survive the coming deregulation fracas. A recent highly informative report ("Clearing the Air") by the Tennessee Valley Energy Reform Coalition (TVERC) has brought out innumerable facts that many of us have not been aware of. Most of TVA's 11 coal-fired plants operate under a major loophole in the 1990 Clean Air Amendments, which exempts plants built prior to 1985 from stringent clean air rules. If the Paradise Steam Plant, for example, were to meet new standards, it would emit barely 1/7 of the SO₂ it dumped into the air last year. Overall, the TVA coal plants produce 73% of the SO₂ emissions and 33% of the NO_x released into the air in the Tennessee Valley; nationwide, TVA is the second largest emitter of NO_x, and the third largest of SO₂ and CO₂.

To its credit (but starting only with the chairmanship of Dave Freeman), TVA has done more than have some large neighboring utilities to clean emissions by installing scrubbers, catalytic converters, etc., on some coal plants. The agency has also committed to reducing NO_x by 75% by the Year 2003. However, the Clean Air Act loophole still permits the horrendous emissions described above, endangering the region's public health and environment (see, e.g., ¶7A, this NL). One remedy would be to convert the most energy-inefficient of the coal plants to natural gas (vastly more efficient and less polluting than coal). The cost of this would raise power rates and presumably make TVA less competitive during the upcoming process of energy deregulation. On the other hand, it would put TVA in a leadership position on environmental and energy-efficiency issues and could help broaden the terms of the deregulation debate.

7. SMOKIES AIR QUALITY, etc.

A. North Carolina ratifies air pact

Air quality in the Smokies has deteriorated to a dangerous level. For 43 days last summer the air was so bad that hiking was actually considered deleterious to health; and the visibility has dropped from an average of 70 miles to an average of 12. Dozens of plant species are showing adverse impacts of ozone pollution, and the impacts of acid precipitation on streams are threatening brook-trout populations.

In an effort to halt this deterioration, a process was put in place to facilitate the sharing of information about emission permits between the state (which is the potential issuer of such permits) and the affected federal agencies. Tennessee ratified such a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May 1997 (NL217 ¶4A), making it possible for the GSMNP and the Cherokee National Forest to raise concerns and to identify potential problems early in the permitting process, when modification or resolution is still possible. Should the state decide to issue a permit despite projections of adverse impacts on the Park, it must provide a written rationale for such a decision. The MOU addresses only potential new pollution sources, not existing ones.

For the MOU to continue past the end of 1998, it was necessary for another Southern Appalachian state to sign the accord. On December 22, despite initial resistance from business interests, North Carolina did sign the MOU – just in the nick of time (now, that was a nice Christmas present!). It will take effect March 1. Now it is necessary for at least one other southeastern state to sign by the end of the year 2000.

B. Capsules

- Senator Frist has introduced a bill that would set a minimum altitude for tourist flights over the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This altitude would be set jointly by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Park Service. Frist is a member of the Aviation Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee.

- The Smokies Trails Environmental Assessment should be out for public review very shortly.

- After an eight-year hiatus to allow for total redesign of the Wears Valley to Walland segment of the Foothills Parkway, construction will now resume with the award of a contract to build two of the ten needed bridges. Altogether 1.6 miles must

still be completed, and the entire 16-mile segment needs to be paved. Completion is not anticipated until after theyear 2013.

- **Kyher Bottoms**, a 524-acre tract 6 miles from the Park has been acquired by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and will be managed as a waterfowl refuge. In addition to providing critical feeding and resting grounds for a wide variety of birds, the Bottoms is also utilized by Park bears in poor mast years. The Foothills Land Conservancy anticipates announcing a larger wetland wildlife refuge project in the near future.

8. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

With this Newsletter, we are endorsing an informative flyer from Cherokee Forest Voices. Coverage of other Forest-related issues and news is deferred until the next Newsletter.

9. LOCAL ISSUES

A. Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

The Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) met for the first time in December, 1998. The group, which represents several different organizations, including TCWP, is primarily concerned with preserving the natural resources on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). Formation of the group was stimulated by the prospect of DOE (U.S. Dept. of Energy) selling some of its land to the City of Oak Ridge. There is concern over how much of the area would change hands, which lands would be involved, and what would be done with these lands.

Protected from disturbance and fragmentation for more than 5 decades, the ORR lands have evolved into ecological sanctuaries of remarkable size and diversity. The area has major value for scientific research, education, and healthful outdoor recreation. If development of any of these lands is to take place, it must not be done without careful planning and extensive public input.

A public forum, sponsored by AFORR along with TCWP and other groups, will be held on April 17 (details in box, below). It will include speakers addressing the subject from many different perspectives, such as scientific, conservation, industrial, etc., and will conclude with a panel discussion. Additional activities are being planned.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Plan to attend the AFORR forum in Oak Ridge. April 17, 9-11 a.m. (tentative), American Museum of Science and Energy (Tulane Ave.). For up-to-date information, call Marcy Reed (481-0623) or Dev Joslin (482-7591).

B. TCWP represented on CROET board

[From "Our Views," *The Oak Ridger*, 12/10/98]: "The Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee this week decided to again designate another seat on its board for an environmental group. ... The position was abolished in what appears to be a fit of pique after members of Save Our Cumberland Mountains expressed disdain for the CROET board and its practices. SOCM is not known for its calm and moderate tone and the CROET board appeared to respond in kind. Not good for a group that is supposed to represent a broad variety of viewpoints. ..."

[Adapted from an Oak Ridger article by Larisa Brass]: On January 26, 1999, CROET voted that the environmental seat formerly occupied by SOCM be filled by Jimmy Groton, both the president of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning and a member of the city's Environmental Quality Advisory Board. CROET recognized TCWP's balanced approach to environmental issues and land-use planning in making their selection. The full CROET board meets on the last Tuesday of each month. TCWP's first CROET meeting will be on February 23, 1999.

C. Anderson Cy. quarry/asphalt plant defeated

Meeting on December 21, the Anderson County Commission failed to pass a resolution to rezone 106 acres near the intersection of I-75 and Highway 61 for a rock quarry and asphalt plant (NI.225/99A). This victory for local citizens was achieved despite the absence of one on the anti-rezoning Commissioners (Myron Iwanski). Of the two swing votes among the Oak Ridge Commissioners listed in our NI.225 article, one (Larry Dickens) ended up voting against the rezoning. Thanks for all your calls!

10. NATIONAL NEWS

A. Bill would increase Land & Water Conservation Fund appropriation

The LWCF is the major source of money for acquiring natural areas before they become irreparably degraded by developments. Each year, \$900 million in offshore oil & gas royalties flow into this fund; but over the past 15 years, Congress

has appropriated less than 1/3 of that amount annually.

Now, House Minority Leader Gephardt (D-MO) has introduced a bill that would mandate use of the full \$900 million.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Rep. Gephardt (address, p.2; fax 202-225-7414) and thank him. Contact your own Congressman (p.2, or Political Guide) and urge him to become a co-sponsor of the Gephardt bill.

B. Gore announces funding for open-space program

The outward growth of metropolitan areas has eaten up 1.5 million acres of farmland each year since 1960. On January 11, Vice President Gore announced the Better America Bonds initiative, part of the Administration's FY 2000 budget, designed to preserve and enhance green space. Money would be used to create and restore urban parks, and to buy (or get easements on) suburban open space and wetlands. The program includes increased funding for public transportation and for air-quality preservation measures, and would provide grants to communities for activities such as land-use planning and the development of appropriate education plans. Cost of the \$10 billion bond issue would be \$700 million over the first 5 years, and the bonds would allow state and local governments to obtain zero-interest financing.

C. Arctic Refuge threatened yet once again

Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-AK) is planning to introduce a bill that would require the use of 3-D seismic testing to evaluate potential oil reserves in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This is a thinly-veiled attempt at strengthening the case for opening ANWR to oil development.

Seismic testing was done in ANWR in 1984-85 and the scars, destroyed vegetation, and degradation of the permafrost layer are still evident. This time would be even worse because the testing would be 3-D instead of 2-D, with seismic lines only 1000 feet (instead of 6-10 miles) apart and thus inviting a more intensive use of 28-ton thumper trucks, bulldozers, and other vehicles.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Senators and Congressman (addresses on p.2) to oppose any bill that authorizes 3-D seismic testing in ANWR.

D. America's Redrock Wilderness bills for the new Congress

An expanded Utah wilderness bill has been introduced by Rep. Hinchey (D-NY) and Sen. Durbin (D-IL). This revised bill reflects the findings of the recently completed, thorough, citizens' inventory; areas previously overlooked were added, and areas no longer qualifying were dropped. Opponents are expected to introduce a thoroughly inferior rival measure in order to have a vehicle for fighting the Hinchey-Durbin bill.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Senators and Congressman (addresses on p.2) to support the Hinchey-Durbin Redrock Wilderness bill for Utah. Stress the importance of this magnificent and very vulnerable area for the country as a whole, and cite any personal acquaintance you may have with it.

E. Good news on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

Management Alternatives. America's newest National Monument, the 1.7-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante, is also the only one administered by the Bureau of Land Management, an agency heretofore known primarily for resource use and extraction, rather than preservation. To everyone's pleasant surprise, BLM's recently issued Draft EIS on the Management Alternatives contains excellent descriptions of the unique array of natural and cultural values found within the Monument. Moreover, BLM's preferred alternative does emphasize resource protection. It contains a number of unsatisfactory features, however, such as permitting ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) on a very substantial portion of the area, insufficiently restricting construction of powerlines and communications towers, permitting the killing of predators, and delaying compliance with laws governing grazing management. TCWP submitted comments supporting a different one of the listed alternatives, but with modifications. The comment deadline was February 12.

Inholdings removed. Scattered parcels within the Monument, totaling 175,000 acres, were owned by the State of Utah as so-called school trust lands. Such lands are designed to produce revenue for public schools and were therefore managed for actual or potential development. At the urging of SUWA (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance), an agreement was worked out between Interior Secretary Babbitt and Utah's Gov. Leavitt to trade all 175,000 acres for black soil land elsewhere, plus \$50 million cash. One of the major arguments of the

State against the Monument has disappeared, the State has received cash plus *developable* lands, and the Monument is saved from numerous potential foci of inappropriate development within its boundaries (such as the recent exploratory oil well by Conoco).

F. Fate of Parks bills in last Congress

Three bills in the 105th Congress had a major bearing on national parks. The following was their outcome.

- The Omnibus National Parks and Public Lands Act (Hansen, R-UT) contained over 20 objectionable provisions (most of them attached as riders), including one that would have seriously weakened the president's authority to designate national monuments, such as the recently created Grand Staircase-Escalante. The bill was rejected 302:123 in the House.
- The Interior Appropriation bill similarly got loaded down with anti-environmental riders, attached at the last minute. With the efforts of several national conservation groups, many of these got removed before the bill was passed, including one that would have allowed helicopters to land unregulated in Alaska's wilderness areas, and one that would have stripped parts of Cumberland Island National Seashore of their protection under the Wilderness Act. The appropriation aspects of the bill were relatively positive, including \$325 million for the Land & Water Conservation Fund (\$147.4 million earmarked for acquisition of endangered natural areas), \$1.3 billion for national park operations, and \$46.2 million toward NPS recreation and preservation programs.
- The Vision 2020 National Parks Restoration Act (Sen. Craig Thomas, R-WY) enacted several aspects of concessions reforms that conservation groups (especially NPCA) had been striving toward for decades (e.g., more competition, shorter contract periods, increased franchise fees returned to the park service). The legislation thus begins to close loopholes for businesses that have been profiting unfairly from the national parks. Other provisions of Vision 2020 direct NPS to write a strategic management plan, create a procedure for adding new park units, incorporate new science into decision-making, and set up a formal training process for employees.

G. Administration to combat exotic species

On February 3, President Clinton signed an Executive Order directing federal agencies to expand and coordinate their efforts to combat the

introduction and spread of exotic plant and animal species. The FY 2000 budget proposes an additional \$29 million to support these efforts. The Order creates a cabinet-level Invasive Species Council to be co-chaired by the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce. The Sec. of Interior will appoint an Executive Director, provide staff and administrative support, and establish an advisory committee representing stakeholders. The first edition of a National Invasive Species Management Plan, with performance-oriented goals, will be issued in 18 months. Each federal agency must take recommended actions within 18 months thereafter. The recommended measures shall provide for a science-based process to evaluate risk from invasive species. If these measures are not already authorized by existing laws, the Council will make legislative proposals for necessary changes in authority.

H. Global-warming proposals:

one bad and one good

- ~~The bad one.~~ S.2617, the Credit for Early Action Act, sponsored by Senators. Lieberman (D-CT), Chafee (R-RI), and Mack (R-FL), is being promoted by several electric utilities but opposed almost unanimously by the environmental community. In the name of reducing greenhouse gases prior to ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, this bill (which allows emission credits for creating "carbon sinks") could inadvertently serve to destroy cherished forests and undermine ecosystem- and biodiversity-protection efforts.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Senators (addresses on p.2) to oppose S.2617.

- ~~The good one.~~ As part of the FY 2000 budget, the Clinton Administration is proposing \$4 billion in sharp increases in climate-related spending, as well as tax breaks geared to reducing emission of greenhouse gases (mostly CO₂). The money, most of which is tied to promises of state matching funds, can be used for programs such as retrofitting buildings, purchasing more fuel-efficient or cleaner-burning vehicles, etc.

11. TCWP NEWS

A. Political Guide: save it and use it often

The 1999 Political Guide you have recently received in a special mailing was prepared by new members Tony and Lynn Venafrò and by executive director Marcy Reed. Our deepest gratitude, for this is a big job as well as one highly important to

our effective way of operating. Please keep your Guide in a readily accessible place and use it often! As excusable in such an information-packed document, a few typos have crept in. Only two are of any significance: (a) On the State side, the zip code for Groundwater Protection should be 37243. (b) On the Federal side, under National Park Service, change the first name of the BSENRRA Superintendent from Roland to Rolland. Please make these corrections on your copy.

Anyone who has failed to receive the Guide, or lost it, should contact Marcy Reed, 423-481-0623, e-mail MarcyRReed@aol.com

B. TCWP receives grant

TCWP will receive a grant for \$1,500 from Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Inc. for organizing the next annual citizen's forum on state parks May 8, probably in East Tennessee (possibly at U.T.). The forum is the 3rd in a series that was born out of frustration about mismanagement and over-development of our state parks. TCWP Pres. Jimmy Grotton will accept the check at an award ceremony February 26. The grant money will be applied to offset costs of announcing and hosting the forum. We are grateful to Membership-Development Director Sandra Goss for writing the grant proposal.

C. Next TCWP outing, March 20

For our second outing of 1999, we'll visit the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area in a 3.5-mile hike from the river up to an overlook on the bluff. Our leader is Prof. Ed Clebsch, retired head of U.T.'s Graduate Program in Ecology, who will provide expert information on woody plants. March 20 should be an ideal time of year, with fresh leaves out and the temperature in a comfortable range (though, can you really forecast weather, this year?).

For carpooling in Oak Ridge, meet Saturday, March 20 at 8 a.m., Eastern Time, in the Winn-Dixie parking lot (Illinois Ave near corner of Tumpville). Those going individually will meet carpoolers at 10 a.m., Eastern Time, at Leatherwood Ford parking lot (take Hwy 297 west from Oneida). Bring lunch and a beverage, wear sturdy shoes, and come prepared for rain. For more info (or for decisions concerning whether to go/postpone in case of inclement weather), call trip leader Ed Clebsch (423-856-3350).

D. Plant identification trips planned for Oak Ridge area

TCWP is planning a series of outings during the summer months in the Oak Ridge area. To be led by plant ecologist Dr. Larry Pounds, these outings are designed for people interested in learning plant identification skills beyond the spring wildflowers. Areas to be visited include the Oak Ridge Barrens and Hawk Ridge. Conservation issues will also be discussed.

E. Report on January 30 outing

That Saturday, the forecast was for 100% probability of rain. Despite this, 12 hardy souls went on the hike and were rewarded by having the rain cease before we got to the trailhead. The Clear Fork and White Oak Creek ran high, but not unduly so, and the moisture of the cliffs along the trail gave the moss a brilliant green glow against the deepened red of the rock face, and brought out the details of the patterned sculpturing in the sandstone. It was sad, however, to see the aftermath of last year's ice storms, which had uprooted many big trees and made them fall across the rhododendron thickets. After the hike, we had a great "English" lunch at the Harrow Road Cafe in Rugby, got a tour of some of the historic buildings, and ended up buying a few local craft items at the commissary. A great day! Many thanks to trip leader, Hal Smith.

F. Report from the committees

Our recently formed committees have now met 3 times each. Their reports are given below. If you are interested in joining one of these committees, call the chair persons listed, or call Sandra Goss (522-3809) or Marcy Reed (481-0623).

Service Committee, Eric Hirst, chair

Since its start on Nov. 7 (see NL225 ¶11C for report on inaugural meeting), this committee has now met 3 times. The following is a report by chairman Eric Hirst.

Since its inception, the TCWP Service Committee has sponsored a hike (led by Hal Smith near Rugby, see ¶11E, this NL) and arranged for a series of columns to be published in *The Oak Ridge* (thanks to Marion Burger, Sandra Goss, and Jenny Freeman). The Committee has big plans, including a hike in the Big South Fork in March (see ¶11C, this NL), cosponsorship of a forum in April on the Future of the Oak Ridge Reservation (¶9A, this NL), a March for Parks series of activities in the Big South Fork in April, a series of plant-identification field trips in the summer (¶11D, this NL), preparation of additional articles on TCWP and Tennessee environmental issues for *The Oak Ridge*, and

development of a TCWP Speakers Bureau (using a slide show prepared by Lee Russell and Marcy Reed).

The Committee is contemplating ways to improve the TCWP website; any members who can assist in this effort should call Eric Hirst at 483-1289. It will work on the TCWP annual meeting (with a close-to-home flavor) for October, several additional hikes, service trips, and membership-expansion activities. Committee membership includes Eric Hirst (chair), Marion Burger, Don Davis, Ruth Gove, Miriam Kertesz, Janet & Bob Lowrie, Larry Pounds, Hal Smith, Marcy Reed and Sandra Goss (staff). TCWP members interested in working with this dynamic and active group of people should call Sandra Goss at 522-3809.

State Parks Committee, Jenny Freeman, chair

The committee met for the first time on Dec. 2 (NL225 ¶11C), again on January 6, and most recently on February 6. Jenny's report of the last meeting follows.

TCWP's State Parks Committee is gathering steam as we make plans to participate in the next annual citizen's forum on state parks for which we have obtained a grant (see ¶11B, this NL). Committee members are enthusiastic about ideas for possible additional grants. We dream of funding someone full-time to research and report on the real costs of development in state parks; someone to track land as it is dumped on the market by land companies and thus to facilitate acquisition of public lands; someone to research and map border areas around state parks and forests. Committee members also spent time discussing the State Parks Master System Plan and submitted a number of comments (see ¶3A and B, this NL).

Current members are Jenny Freeman (chair), Mary Lynn Dobson, Carol and Gary Gramebauer, Frank Hensley, Wendy Lane, Joni Lovegrove, Joe Matlock, Rita Senko, and Marcy Reed. The next meeting is March 16, 7:00 p.m., at Jenny Freeman's house. Call Jenny (482-5980, evenings) for more information about this active and fun committee.

Water Issues Committee, Chuck Estes, chair

This committee has met Dec. 3 (NL225 ¶11C), January 14, and February 11. The January 14 meeting, attended by about a dozen people, was highlighted by a discussion with Obed WSR Superintendent Don Forester. Much of the information in ¶1D and ¶1E, this NL, derives from this meeting. In addition, Lee discussed the Corps report (¶1A) and the then-status of the Obed ONRW designation (¶1B).

At the 2/11/99 meeting, the group turned its attention to the general water quality of the Obed

watershed. It plans to study Daddy's Creek at the next meeting, identifying non-point pollution sources and property owners along the creek. With staff help, the committee has compiled an extensive set of mailing labels for persons outside TCWP who have an expressed or likely interest in the Obed and/or Big South watersheds.

This committee has major and urgent water issues to tackle (see, e.g., ¶4) and would greatly welcome additional members. For more information, call Chuck Estes (482-7374) or Sandra K. Goss (423-522-3809).

G. Thanks to our volunteers

We now have so many volunteers that it is hard to list them in this section. Their names may be found in the committee reports and elsewhere throughout the Newsletter. We do want to make a special list of those who helped assemble NL225, namely Vera and Don Davis, Katherine Pensworth, Charlie Klabunde, Sandra Goss, Marcy Reed, and (as always) the "boss," organizer, picker-up, and mailer, Frank Hensley.

12. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES; READING MATTER: RESOURCES

Deadlines and events calendar (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, skgoss@espcr.com; or Marcy Reed, 423-481-0623, marcyreed@aol.com)

- March 2, Knoxville, meeting on small-stream regs for ARAPs (¶4B)
- March 5, Comment deadline for Tellico Res. development (¶6A)
- March 11, Wartburg, meeting on Obed Trail Plan (1D)
- March 16, 7 p.m. TCWP State Parks committee, 371 East Drive, Oak Ridge (¶11F)
- March 18-20, Exotic Pest Plant Symposium. Pollard Auditorium, Oak Ridge (¶5C)
- March 20, TCWP hike from Leatherwood Ford (¶11C)
- March 22, TCWP Service Committee, 106 Capitol Circle, Oak Ridge (¶11F)
- March 26-28, Tennessee Clean Water Conference (¶4A)
- April 11-14, National Conference on Environmental Decision Making, UT, Knoxville (call 974-3939, or www.nced.org - click on "Events")
- April 12-14, "Going to the Source -- Protecting Tennessee's Drinking Water," organized by Tenn. Sect., American Water Resources Assoc. (Michael W. Bradley, Nashville, 615-837-4703).

- April 17, AFORR conference on Oak Ridge Reservation, Amer. Museum of Science and Energy, Oak Ridge (99A)
- April 24, TCWP's March for Parks, location TBA (911F)
- May 8, Third Annual State Park Forum, location TBA (911B)
- June 5, 10 a.m. Native Plant Workshop, at Native Gardens, Greenback, TN
- Nov. 29 - Dec. 3, 1999 Congress on Recreation & Resource Capacity, Aspen, CO (970-491-4865, or susanlun@lamar.colostate.edu).

Resources

- The Tennessee Environmental Council has established the Global Warming Education Network (GWEN). Call Mary Liz Knish, 615-321-5075.
- The Tennessee Sierra Club maintains a phone messaging system that provides information on the current status of legislative and environmental issues of importance to the Sierra Club: 615-259-4245 (if you experience difficulties, call 615-792-1812).
- The Recycled Trash Co. sells recycled cotton casual apparel, natural or dyed with low-impact dyes. Call 1-800-53-TRASH.

Books

- *Circling Windrock Mountain* by Jimmie Bell is based on interviews with mountain people conducted while Jimmie was a reporter for *The Oak Ridger*, 1967-1970 (she did a number of stories on TCWP in its early days, and is still a TCWP member). Family stories from Frost Bottom, Oliver Springs, and New River Valley goback more than 200 years and cover the early days of logging and mining in the area, continuing to the more recent fights against stripmining by SOCM and TCWP. An epilogue describes the area today. (Univ. of Tennessee Press, 423-974-2223; also available in area book stores).
- *Hiking Tennessee Trails* by Evan Means and Bob Brown. This fifth edition, copyright 1999, was extensively revised by "guest editor" Bob Brown of Nashville. It describes 166 named trails, which are grouped into 8 categories (e.g., state parks, Cherokee NF, other federal lands, urban trails). Details are provided, as are new and vastly improved trail maps, and there are numerous addresses for obtaining more information. (298 pp., \$12.50 paperback: The Globe Pequot Press, POB 833, Old Saybrook, CT).

Websites of interest

(each address is preceded by <http://>)

- Cherokee Forest Voices:
www.kornet.org/cfvoices
- River Network (water protection issues, directory of rivers and watershed organizations, government agencies, fund raising, etc.):
www.rivernetwork.org
- Global warming info from EPA (inventory of US emissions):
www.epa.gov/globalwarming/inventory
- Pollution info from EPA (what pollutants are being released into any community, and by whom):
www.scorecard.org
- On-line job search (advocacy employment, volunteer opportunities):
www.idealists.org/IS/job_search.html

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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