



Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

Newsletter No. 234

July 20, 2000

Taking Care of Wild Places

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

11. ACTION SUMMARY

#No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Attempts to stall Roadless Rule	US Senators ~ SOON Pres. Clinton	"Oppose Sen. Craig's rider to delay USFS Roadless Rule!" "Veto Congressional attempts to stall the Rule!"
1C	Efforts to strengthen the Rule	Vice President Gore	"Thank you!"
1E	So. Forest Resource Assessment	Their web site	Identify forest areas that should be assessed
2A	Jet skis in Big South Fork?	Supt. Detring	"Do not cave in to pressures!"
5A	TVA Green Power	Your electric utility	Signup for Green Power Switchblock(s)
6B	Smokies elk introduction	Appropriate web site	By July 28, comment on Environmental Assessment
7A	Haw Ridge	City Council; TVA; <i>The Oak Ridger</i>	"Don't make inroads into Haw Ridge's 'recreation-only' rule!"
7B	Oak Ridge Reservation	Rep. Zach Wamp	"These significant 30,000 acres need a protection plan!"
8B	Nat'l Park resource protection	US Senators	"Co-sponsor S.2181 (Bingaman)!"
8D	Year-2000 elections	Information on candidates	Start studying records and platform on environmental issues.
9	TCWP tasks	TCWP	Attend upcoming events; join a committee; volunteer
9F	Community Shares	Your boss(es)	"Arrange work-place giving through Community Shares!"

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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Sundquist
Respectfully yours,

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To call any Rep or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772
URLs: <http://www.house.gov/lastname/> and <http://lastname.senate.gov/> General contact info: <http://www.tcv.org>

WHAT IS TCWP?

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

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1. BIG ISSUES IN FOREST PROTECTION

A. Senate trying to thwart roadless-area conservation for national forests

Even before the comment deadline ended (July 17) on the US Forest Service's Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement, DEIS (NL233 ¶1), anti-environmental forces in the Congress launched their war on this historical move to save our remaining unspoiled lands. Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) introduced an amendment to the Interior Appropriation bill that would greatly delay the process by tying it up in red tape. Sen. Craig and his allies are obviously hoping for a Bush victory, since George W. has already vowed to overturn this "Clinton-Goreland grab."

The practice of adding riders, i.e., provisions that would never make it on their own, to "must-pass" spending bills is a sneaky and undemocratic way of furthering the agendas of a few anti-environmental members of the Congress. The USFS made huge efforts to obtain widespread public involvement (starting with the scoping process) for its Proposed Rule, holding almost 200 meetings nationwide and receiving 365,000 comments even before the DEIS was published. There has been an outpouring of support for the concept of preserving roadless areas, with a Rule even stronger than the one proposed (see ¶1B, below). Sen. Craig's attempt is a travesty of the democratic process. Several TCWP members called Senators Thompson and Frist, urging them to oppose the Craig amendment; we were told that the Senators were receiving numerous calls with the same message.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

It is unlikely that there'll ever again be such an opportunity to protect our country's few remaining wild lands. We must squelch Sen. Craig's sneaky attempt to derail it.

- (1) Without delay, call your senators (phone numbers on p.2) and urge them to oppose the Craig amendment to delay the USFS Roadless Plan.
- (2) Contact Pres. Clinton (see p.2) and urge him to veto the Interior Appropriations bill if it contains the Craig amendment and/or other anti-environmental riders.

B. Comments for strengthening the USFS proposed Rule and DEIS

Although the comment period ended July 17, a summary of the issues may be of interest. TCWP submitted comments as an organization, and several Board members also commented extensively as individuals. The bottom line: we were proud of the Administration for having created this opportunity for the Forest Service to leave an unprecedented legacy for the American people and the world, and we urged the USFS to seize the opportunity to the fullest by strengthening the proposed Rule.

The DEIS discussed several alternatives under each of 3 headings: Prohibition, Procedural, and Tongass. Under the first, the USFS's Preferred Alternative was to prohibit road construction and reconstruction in roadless portions of inventoried roadless areas (5,000+ acres). TCWP urged that, logging, in addition, be specifically prohibited. This would diminish the offered 5-year timber volume by only 1.9% more than would the Preferred Alternative, and would diminish total US timber production by only 0.1%. Loss of jobs would amount to only 3% for Forest Service timber-related jobs, and would constitute less than 0.1% of wood-products-related jobs nationwide.

We urged very strongly that uninventoried unroaded areas of 1,000+ acres be given the same protection as that given to inventoried roadless areas of 5,000+ acres. This is of particular importance for the Eastern US, where national forests are smaller, and where unspoiled land is a rare commodity. Under the Procedural heading, rather than waiting for the next regular Forest Plan Revision in any given Forest for implementation of the Rule (which was the USFS Preferred Alternative), we urged that project-by-project analysis be applied as transition to this regular step in the planning cycle, and that project-level interim protection be given to uninventoried roadless areas.

For the Tongass National Forest our nation's large and magnificent temperate rain forest, we strongly urged protections equal to those for other national forests, and we rejected the Preferred Alternative of waiting 4 years before prohibitions are considered. Finally, we strongly recommended that ORVs be prohibited, or severely limited, in roadless areas of all types. There is plenty of space for ORVs in the 72% of national forest lands that are not roadless.

C. V.P. Gore comes out for strengthened Roadless Rule

In a May 30 speech, Vice President Gore made an unequivocal statement calling for a ban on logging in the roadless national forest lands. Additionally, he pledged to include the Tongass in the roadless protection plan. "If I am entrusted with the presidency," he added, "it will be a national priority to preserve these roadless areas as they are -- no ifs, ands, or buts about it." The vice president has clearly placed pressure on the Forest Service to strengthen its roadless protection plan, the final version of which will come out in the fall -- unless Sen. Larry Craig has his way (see ¶1A, above). THANK YOU, MR. VICE PRESIDENT!

D. Martha Ketelle draws the line on Forest recreational use

The supervisor of one of our largest national forests, the White River NF in Colorado, is Martha Ketelle, raised in Oak Ridge, and for 4 years (1988-91, inclusive) president of TCWP. In her national forest, it is recreation -- how much, what kind, where -- that has become the major issue for the upcoming new Forest Plan (the last one was dated 1984).

The White River NF already encompasses North America's largest complex of ski areas, and ATV and motorcycle use has grown by 75% annually. For the DEIS of the new Forest Plan, released last summer, the drafters chose an Alternative that "addresses the idea that a higher priority be given to physical and biological resources than to human uses of the Forest." Martha is quoted as saying that the land "can't infinitely absorb the impacts of the multiple uses that we have put on it." The DEIS is said to have stimulated almost 15,000 comments by the time of the May 9 deadline. These have been sent for analysis, the results of which will be disseminated to all the stakeholders via newsletters, talks, and meetings.

And, as soon as the comment period ended for the Forest Plan, a new one began for the USFS Roadless Area Plan (¶1B, above). The 2.3 million acre White River NF has 640,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas.

E. Southern Forest Resource Assessment: progress report

The assessment we had so long hoped for (NL 228 ¶7B) has now been in progress for just over a year. Assessment Questions were finalized during the first Assessment Team meeting in February, and were placed on the web site www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain. The second meeting of

the Assessment Team, which has just concluded (July 18-20, in Nashville), focused on a number of logistical issues. The Interagency Planning Team has finalized the Citizen Participation Plan and posted it on the web site. An important feature of this Plan is that public feedback will be invited in August on criteria for identifying candidate sub-regional focus areas or smaller areas for potential further analysis. A conference will be held Nov. 7-8 (see ¶10, this NL) to examine issues surrounding forest sustainability in the South.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Visit the web site www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain to identify specific (or general) areas you believe should be analyzed as part of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment.

F. Tennessee and logging

- The ongoing major move of timber industries from the Northwest and Northeast into the Southeast will take a big jump forward with the location of a new Willamette Industries plant at Kingsport. The Oregon-based company plans to invest \$475 million to rebuild an aging paper mill it acquired from the Mead Corp. in 1995. Despite the major air-quality issues involved, the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Division did its best to minimize citizen comments by giving virtually no notice of a public meeting scheduled right after July 4. As expected, the Division is now in process of speedily issuing all the air permits required. Of particular significance to Tennessee's forests is the fact the Willamette plant will produce 1,200 tons of paper per day (as compared to the present capacity of 500 tons).
- The Forestry Division of the Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture is using a recent USFS survey as the basis for a statement that "we are not in a gloom-and-doom situation relative to our forest resources." The survey found that timber is being cut at a faster rate in Tennessee than it was 10 years ago, but that 2.16 and 1.38 hardwood and softwood trees, respectively, are planted for every one that is cut. Numerous questions are not answered. How many of the planted trees survive? What are the regional trends? What proportion of the replanting goes to simply making tree plantations or city landscaping with Bradford Pears, which do not replace destroyed forests and their entire ecosystems. A study being conducted at the University of the South in Seawee found that, over the past 18 years, Grundy County alone has experienced a 516% in-

crease (13,144 acres) in hardwood forests cleared for pine plantations.

- For recently passed bills, see ¶4E.

2. BIG SOUTH FORK: JET SKIS AND OTHER MATTERS

A. Now it's jet skis we must resist in the BSF

As though the Big South Fork NRRRA wasn't already getting enough pressures from ORV users, they are now hearing from another motorized group – jet skiers! The National Park Service (NPS) recently made a decision to close park waterways nationwide to PWCs (Personal Watercraft = jet skis), exempting only a few national lakeshores and seashores which were to determine their own rule in the near future. Local pressure from jet-ski interests is now being brought on four NPS units, the Big South Fork NRRRA among them, to reverse this decision.

As most people know, the 1974 Act that established the BSFNRRRA bars motorized transportation from the Gorge Area. A 1990 amendment, however, exempts the lower segment of the Big South Fork River, starting 1/10 mile downstream from Devils Jump, from this prohibition. It is undoubtedly this segment that the jet skiers are attempting to invade.

Jet skis do not belong in park waters. They are obnoxiously noisy and polluting, they harass wildlife and disturb other park visitors and river users. Visitors to the BSFNRRRA go there for peace and quiet and the enjoyment of its natural resources; they do not wish to be reminded of the noisy, smelly, motorized world outside. Tennessee and Kentucky, with their abundant reservoirs, provide ample opportunities for jet-ski recreation elsewhere.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact Superintendent Detring
(rcrd_detring@nps.gov, or 423-569-9778, or Big South Fork NRRRA, 4564 Leatherwood Rd., Oneida, TN 37841). Urge him to stand strong for the park and not to cave in to the pressures from a select few.

B. NPS gets further input for Roads & Trails Plan

The second round has now been completed for the Focus Group sessions through which the Na-

tional Park Service (NPS) is seeking to receive public input prior to generating a draft RTMP (Roads & Trails Management Plan). The players (a limited number of people chosen to represent various "user" interests, plus representatives of local governments) were, in general, the same as those in the first round (NL233 ¶2B). Among the exercises was for each person to write down and orally present to the group his/her desirable characteristics of a good trail system. Another exercise was to write down the attributes that certain types of trail (e.g., equestrian, ATV, etc.) would have to have to make them acceptable to other users. Was this an attempt to promote multi-purpose trails? At all focus-group sessions, there was considerable expression of general unease with ATV use in the BSFNRRRA.

We hear that the Draft General Management Plan drew such a huge number of comments that its completion will be delayed, thereby further delaying the Draft Roads & Trails Management Plan probably until Spring 2001. Undoubtedly, this delay will bring additional pressures from ORV and horse constituencies (and from the politicians to whom these appeal) to lift the trails moratorium (NL230 ¶1A) and provide additional accesses for these user groups. NPS needs to meet its mandate of protecting the resource, resist pressures, and not allow any new trails or accesses until impact studies are complete. There are already, about 600 miles of trails and roads, combined, in the BSFNRRRA, an incredibly dense network for a National Area within which visitors desire to find natural values and solitude.

C. BSFNRRRA is charging user fees

Big South Fork was recently added to a list of 100 National Park System units that can charge user fees under a demonstration program. On July 1, the park started to charge fees for overnight backcountry permits, for use of the swimming pool and some other facilities at Bandy Creek, for the boat launch at Alum Ford, and for certain other activities. User fees are a mixed blessing. They generate revenue, but they may make the park more willing to listen to requests and demands from the most numerous users, which may also be those engaged in the most damaging activities, e.g., ORV riders.

3. OBED CAPSULES

A. Obed segment of Cumberland Trail to be dedicated

After 4 years of volunteer effort by the Cumberland Trail Conference, the 13-mile Obed Wild & Scenic River segment of the Cumberland Trail (CT) will be ready for its official opening in mid-September. This segment runs down lower Daddys Creek, then on the South side of the Obed, and finally on the West side of the Emory to Nemo. There it crosses the old Nemo Bridge, which was preserved as a historical pedestrian crossing, thanks largely to the efforts of Don Todd.

Ribbon cutting and dedication of the CT as Tennessee's Millennium Legacy Trail will take place at 11:00 EDT on Sept 15 at the Nemo Bridge. Various high-ranking dignitaries have been invited. Following a picnic lunch, there'll be a short hike from Nemo Bridge to Alley Ford. On Saturday, Sept. 16, the 13-mile through-hike will be offered, as well as some shorter hikes on various sections. For more information, contact CTC, 19 East 4th Street, Crossville, TN 38555.

B. Clean-up/repair of damages by climbers

The Access Fund, an organization of environmentally concerned climbers, has designated September 9 as a day for attempting to repair some of the damages caused by irresponsible climbers. Damages in the Obed WSR, especially in segments of downstream Clear Creek and the confluence with the Obed, include numerous unauthorized trails, cleared vegetation near the base of cliffs, trampled ground, and fire sites that have blackened the cliff faces. Any TCWP member wishing to help in the one-day repair attempts should contact TCWP Board member Ralph Harvey (865-986-6769).

4. STATE LANDS

A. BIG VICTORY

Fall Creek Falls watershed mining banned from 61,420 acres

In the morning of June 17, having taken a short hike along the gorge rim, and standing near the major overlook of the Fall Creek waterfall, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt told the assembled crowd of more than 100 that 61,420 acres (of a total of 85,588 acres) would henceforth be protected

against surface mining. He recounted the many-year-long history of the citizen effort to protect the watershed of the Park, an effort that was originally sparked by the ideas of a few local SOCM members and grew into formal LUMP's (Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petitions) spearheaded by SOCM, participated in by TCWP, and signed onto by 49 individuals. OSM dismissed the first LUMP as incomplete. It responded to a subsequent (1995), thorough and well-researched, LUMP with a proposal that was totally unacceptable to the petitioners and to huge numbers of their supporters (NL223 ¶1). Continued citizen pressure (supported by the State), and contacts with Vice President Gore (whom Babbitt credited for his strong support), then led to the Final EIS, issued March 3 (NL232 ¶1; NL233 ¶4B). It was the Preferred Alternative of this EIS that, on June 17, was signed by Sec. Babbitt into a Record of Decision.

Three of the 5 subwatersheds (Cane Creek, Falls Creek, and Meadow Creek) are designated as "unsuitable for all types of surface coal mining operations." A fourth one, Piney Creek, is also designated unsuitable, except in its upper portions, where mining is allowed "if a portion of the proposed operation includes previously mined areas and the permit applicant demonstrates that water quality in receiving streams will not be degraded." The rationale is that re-mining of the numerous unreclaimed orphan-mine sites that exist in that area has the potential to improve water quality. Finally, no lands are designated unsuitable in the Dry Fork watershed. According to the news release, "the Dry Fork subsides underground during low flow periods prior to entering the park and emerges north of the park outside the petition area." (But Dry Fork Creek now has other problems, see ¶4B, below).

A bang-up celebration of the event had been organized by SOCM. Several speakers preceded Sec. Babbitt, including Justin Wilson (representing Gov. Sundquist), Patrice Cole, representing TCWP, and SOCM Stripmine Committee leaders. After the signing of the Record of Decision, there was lunch in a huge tent, more recognition speeches, and entertainment. Among numerous TCWP members attending were Patrice Cole, Marcy Reed, and Lee Russell.

B. Sewage politics threatens Dry Fork Creek - and Fall Creek Falls

Minimal public notice was given when the town of Spencer, next to Fall Creek Falls State Park and Natural Area, applied for a sewage

system. Dry Fork Creek, which is to receive the outflow from the sewage plant at mile 6.5, flows through a new part of the park. Moreover, much of the flow enters a huge cave system under Spencer Mountain. Would the effluent have enough mixing time to oxygenate and neutralize ammonia before it goes underground?

After considerable pressure from environmental groups (led by TEC) and from EPA, the state on 4/25/00 reevaluated the Dry Fork as a High Quality Stream. This means that no degradation is allowed unless approved by the Water Quality Control Board on the basis of social/economic need. It took less than a month (until May 23) for the WQCB to order the state to issue the town of Spencer a permit for the sewer plant.

As might have been expected, there are some real-estate interests behind all this. In anticipation of a sewer line becoming available, real-estate developers have clear-cut hundreds of acres (visible from the park) for a massive resort development involving homes, golf course, and a lake.

In early June, a number of groups (including TCWP) requested EPA to review the action of the WQCB. On June 14, environmental attorneys Joe McCaleb and Gary Davis petitioned the WQCB to, (a) declare its May 23 action invalid, and (b) to stay the permit. The Board declined (b), but decided to consider (a) at its meeting of Sept. 26-27.

C. Status of various land acquisitions

Bad news: Tennessee loses 122,000 acres of open space annually and ranks 7th among all states in loss of open space to development. The following are a few efforts to stem the tide.

* Cumberland Trail

The State has dedicated \$650,000 of the Land & Water Conservation Fund to the acquisition and development of the Cumberland Trail State Park. Additionally, the \$22,000 raised by the Cumberland Trail Conference at the April 8 event (NL233 ¶4E) has kicked off a capital campaign to help acquire land for the Park (see also ¶10, this NL). The aim is to raise \$25 million in private funds for matching federal grant sources. To date, most of the completed 99 miles of trail run through corridors located in federal or state lands. Negotiations are underway to purchase 40 miles of trail easements through Bowaters Pocket Wildernesses. Additional mileage will traverse Black Mountain (see below).

* Black Mountain

A 528 tract on Black Mountain, near Crab Orchard, at the half-way point of the Cumberland Trail, is currently a registered State Natural Area in private ownership. From its sandstone bluffs, you look down into Grassy Cove 1,300 ft below, and toward the Smokies 75 miles away. An effort is underway to acquire and preserve the highly scenic Black Mountain for the State. The landowner has donated part of the \$700,000 land value, and the State Land Acquisition Committee has allocated funds for purchasing the tract, pending fundraising for the remaining 50% by the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation. About \$200,000 remain to be raised. You can contact the Foundation, attn. Kathleen Williams, at 2704 - 12th Ave., South, Nashville, TN 37204, 615-386-3171.

* Fiery Gizzard

To preserve the integrity of the scenic Fiery Gizzard Trail (Grundy Forest State Natural Area, near Savage Gulf), the Friends of South Cumberland State Recreation Area are raising funds to protect portions that cross private lands. For more information, call Ron Castle, 931-967-2053, or visit the Web site www.pcimedia.com/friends/. Fiery Gizzard Creek also needs protection from bacterial contamination entering tributaries due to inadequate sewage treatment in Tracy City.

D. State participating in completion of Gulf Tract purchase

Last October (NL230 ¶1A) we were in the midst of a cliffhanger on whether or not the Interior Appropriations bill would contain the \$3.5 million for purchasing the 6,820-acre Gulf Tract from Champion International (NL229 ¶5A). The Gulf Tract is located between the French Broad River and the Smokies, partly on the west slope of Max Patch, one of the finest grassy balds. It is overlooked by 9 miles of the Appalachian Trail, and almost surrounded by national forest land along the Tennessee-N.C. line. There was a distinct threat that this critical land would be sold for commercial development.

The federal appropriation was indeed received (TCWP had participated in the campaign for it), but it has turned out to be insufficient. Now, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has expressed a willingness to provide funds for completion of the purchase, and the Conservation Fund is conducting the negotiations with Champion International on behalf of the US Forest Service and the State of Tennessee.

E. Bills that passed the 2000 legislative session

[Based in part on TDEC's Hot List]

Natural Areas

Two new state natural areas were designated by the General Assembly: Vine Cedar Glade in Wilson County (35 acres) and William B. Clark Conservation Area in Fayette County (420 acres).

Forestry bills

Of all the various forestry bills, only the two reported in NL233 ¶6C made it intact through the session. One provides for stop-work orders for any operator whose failure to use BMPs (Best Management Practices) results in water pollution. Any operator not using BMPs will incur penalties to be enacted by the Water Quality Control Board (WQCB). While a step in the right direction, this law has a number of weak features. Thus, the order cannot be issued until after the violation is found to have occurred; and it must be issued personally by the Commissioner of Environment & Conservation, after he has consulted with the Commissioner of Agriculture. Further, the operator can request the WQCB to review and reverse the stop-work order.

The other new law (P.C.849), which will become effective 9/1/00, requires the two Departments (Environment & Conservation and Agriculture) to post a downloadable form on their web sites that can be used by anyone to report pollution caused by a forestry operation. The form will also include a toll-free number for the Departments. The TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation web-site address is www.tdec.net.

Inter-Basin Water Transfer Act

This new law addresses the growing water shortages in portions of Tennessee, and the increasing water conflicts between southeastern states (NL233 ¶6D). An operator must now obtain a permit from TDEC before diverting or transferring water among any of 10 river basins or watersheds, and must submit flow or pumping records to TDEC.

F. Budget cuts for TDEC

[Based in part on TDEC's Hot List]

The legislature not only denied modest requests for new funds, but cut existing funding by \$6.5 million for FY 2000-2001. Of this amount, \$2.5 million comes from the state's 7 resort parks (which have been operating at a loss), along with the mandate that park inns, restaurants and golf courses become self-sufficient in the next two years. Income from the 7 resort parks has been \$20.2 million per year, while concessions and fees

at the other parks and natural areas total about \$7 million. *The Conservationist* magazine was given a year in which to become self-sufficient.

TDEC is raising fees and rates. A pilot entrance-fee project will be initiated at four state parks. The legislature approved a dedicated fund for the fees to ensure that the money collected will go back into the parks.

G. State policy on ORVs

[Source: TDEC Hot List]

ORVs (off-road vehicles), or OHVs (off-highway vehicles) as they are sometimes called (ATVs, dirt bikes, 4x4s, etc.), continue to be banned in state parks and natural areas. Now the Forestry Division has passed an emergency rule regulating their use in state forests (a permanent rule-making process will follow). Personal motorized vehicles are permitted on paved roads where they are licensed to be, on all gravel roads maintained by the Division, and on designated dirt roads. Off-road use is not permitted at any time. Violations are punishable by fines up to \$2,500 and up to one year in jail.

A state OHV Committee has been meeting monthly since Nov. 1999, and will produce recommendations for land-selection criteria, motorized trail design, environmental protection, education, regulations, and enforcement. Currently, the Committee is steering toward the establishment of a state program that would put the financial burden on OHV users, involve some registration program, and require increased responsibility of individual riders.

5. TVA NEWS

A. Now most of us can -- and should -- buy Green Power

The Oak Ridge Electric Dept. has been added to the TVA power distributors that now offer the Green Power option. Among 11 distributors that had signed on earlier are those serving Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, and the Powell Valley. This means that virtually all TCWP members living in the TVA area can now buy Green Power (produced by solar, wind, or landfill-gas energy), which will be added to the Valley's total power mix, thus correspondingly reducing the need for coal-generated power. Currently, 63% of TVA's total power comes from coal-fired plants, at a tremendous environmental cost (see, e.g., NL233 ¶9; NL226 ¶6C).

You can buy Green Power Switch™ in 150-kilowatt-hour blocks, and sign up for as many

blocks as you wish. Each block adds just \$4 to your total monthly electric bill. (For perspective, the average per capita power usage in the TVA area is ~1,200 kWh/month.) The Oak Ridge National Laboratory was TVA's first industrial participant in the Green Power Switch program, with a commitment to purchase 56,259 kWh/month.

TVA's sign-up goal for residences for the year between Earth Day 2000 (when the program started) and Earth Day 2001 is 1% of the total residential customers served, or about 9,000. As of June 21, the numbers signed up were as follows:

	<u>Customers</u>	<u>Blocks</u>
Residential	1,186	1,878
Commercial	65	3,387

If we all do a good job of spreading the word. We can reach the goal of 9,000.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: With your next utility-bill payment, enclose a note indicating the number of Green Power Switch blocks (@\$4/month) you wish to sign up for. State your account number, name, address, and phone number. Sign and date the note. Or (in Oak Ridge), you can call 220-1803.

B. To work for greener energy technologies

In January, TVA's new Board dedicated the Public Power Institute, with a staff of 60 engineers and scientists, at Muscle Shoals (NL232 ¶5D). It was recently announced that Oak Ridge National Lab would collaborate with TVA's Institute to develop, demonstrate, and deploy technologies for efficient and environmentally benign renewable-energy production and use.

C. TVA's public lands: will natural areas be taken care of?

TVA is in charge of 265,000 acres of public lands and aims to involve the public in the planning process for these lands. This process is designed to identify lands best suited to specific uses. Plans are already in place for the lands surrounding 9 reservoirs (including Watts Bar, Melton Hill, and Chickamauga), and are currently being developed for 5 additional ones. Planning will be completed in 2000 for Tellico, Tims Ford, and Bear Creek; and in 2001 for Norris and Cherokee. For information on specific reservoir plans, or on how to participate, call 1-800-TVA-LAND.

One piece of disturbing news is that, with the departure of Judith Bartlow the Natural Areas

position in TVA's Heritage Program was "frozen" (i.e., no plans for getting a replacement). TCWP is making inquiries.

D. Stewardship Council starts work

The recently formed Regional Resource Stewardship Council (RRSC, see NL229 ¶6C; NL232 ¶5A) met for the first time on March 17 to discuss guidelines for the Council's operation. Two of the 20 members may be considered to represent environmental interests: Stephen Smith, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and Julie Hardin, Foot-hills Land Conservancy. Six represent utilities or similar entities, and four are members or representatives of local governments. Individual members can be contacted by e-mail via the web site www.tva.gov, which also provides transcripts of Council meetings.

At the May 25 meeting, RRSC formed 4 subcommittees and a legislative working group. Of greatest interest to TCWP are the public-lands and water-quality subcommittees. While the latter is inviting a few outside participants, it appears that the former will be made up of Council members only.

6. SMOKIES MATTERS

A. Last year was worst ozone season ever - until THIS year!

If you think last year's ozone pollution was bad in the Smokies — with 52 unhealthy days during the season — brace yourself for breaking the all-time record this year. Last year, the 10th exceedance day (concentrations of over 85 ppb) didn't occur until July 23, but this year it was chalked up for June 11, about 6 weeks earlier, and the season continues through September. Clingman's Dome also exceeded the 1-hour ozone standard for the first time ever on June 10, with an average concentration of 128 ppb. Evermore reason for the Green Power Switch (¶5A, this NL) — and not just by TVA, for energy efficiency and energy conservation, to say nothing of traffic reduction, cleaner vehicles, and industry regulation! How very sad that the region's governors refuse to do their part on federally-mandated State Implementation Plans (SIPs) and other matters (NL233 ¶8).

B. EA for elk introduction

Historically, American elk inhabited the Southern Appalachian Mountain region until the mid 1800s when habitat destruction caused their

extirpation. The feasibility of elk restoration in the Smokies has been under consideration since 1989, and in mid-June the Park released an Environmental Assessment (EA) for experimental elk release. The EA addresses such matters as competition with existing native species, reducing the impacts of non-native plants and animals (ranging from kudzu to wild hogs), disease and parasite concerns, and the possible migration of elk outside Park boundaries. The text of the EA is posted on the Park's web site (www.nps.gov/gtram/elkea.htm). Comment deadline is July 28, so some of you may just have time after receiving this Newsletter.

7. OAK RIDGE AREA

A. Haw Ridge recreation zoning is at stake

When TVA donated the 788-acre Haw Ridge to the City of Oak Ridge, the transfer came with the restriction that the land be used for public outdoor recreation only. The Ridge, which peaks to over 1,100 ft, is located between the Bethel Valley Road and the shores of Melton Hill Lake. It is much used for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and overnight stays by youth organizations. The proposed final segment of the Melton Lake Greenway is partly located here. A Bald Eagle nest and pair have been sighted at the park.

Now, the City of Oak Ridge wants to use some of it for industrial development. On June 19, the City Council passed a resolution authorizing the mayor to request TVA to lift the public-recreation restriction on the land so the city can lease a 4-acre portion to Janousek Racing, a British company that proposes to manufacture light racing boats. Council members see this as furthering the city's aim to become a first-class destination for rowing competitions. The vote was 5-2, with Abbatello and Minter opposed.

Council has known about Janousek's request since late last year, but there was virtually no public notice until the Council agenda was published shortly before the June 19 meeting. Neither was the matter at any time referred to EQAB. It has also been learned that Janousek has not requested this particular location — anywhere in Oak Ridge along the waterway would be acceptable to them (and to most Oak Ridgers).

For these various reasons, as well as in the light of past history of Council actions, it ap-

pears as if the real motive may be to make an in-road into the Haw Ridge land-user restrictions. In fact, in a reported interview (*Metropulse*), Mayor Kuhaida did not rule out that the city might find subsequent "appropriate" developments for the park and that he planned to handle opportunities as they came along, "one-at-a-time."

At issue is not the specific site proposed for Janousek, but the matter of the city taking public recreation land for private profit, and the precedent that this would set for future similar incursions. This looks as if it may just be the start of nibbling away at public outdoor recreation land that TVA had attempted to protect.

It appears the city has not yet made a formal request to TVA. The original transfer agreement declares that any deviation from public recreational use will result in the land being conveyed to TVA. Thus, if TVA accedes to the city's request, Oak Ridge would have to return the 4 acres to TVA, and TVA would re-donate it without, or with different, restrictions.

TCWP will send a letter to the mayor and City Council, with a copy to TVA. Additionally, we plan to participate in a meeting with TVA being set up by mountain bikers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

It is important that TVA and the Oak Ridge City Council hear of your concerns about this matter.

- (1) To contact the City Council, address your letter to Mayor Jerry Kuhaida and Members of the Council. Send it to the City Clerk, Municipal Bldg., 200 S. Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, and ask her to distribute copies to all members of City Council.
- (2) Ruben Hernandez, Head, Resource Stewardship Program, TVA, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902-1499.
- (3) Send a copy of your letter(s) to the editor, *The Oak Ridger*, with a request that it be published.

A. Groups meet with DOE to discuss long-term land-use planning

[Contributed by Dev Joslin]

On July 5, representatives of eight organizations met with Leah Dever, Manager of the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Operations, and several other DOE officials. The major topic of discussion was the need for a long-term, holistic land-use plan for the entire Oak Ridge Reservation. The importance of incorporating input from stakeholders and the general public in the plan-

ring process was emphasized. The many values of the Reservation for conservation, research, recreation, historical preservation, and buffer areas were also pointed out by the various representatives. Following a very positive and constructive interaction among participants, Ms. Dever generally agreed on the need both for such planning and for incorporating public input. We look forward to further progress in this arena.

Attending were representatives of TCWP, The Nature Conservancy, Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, Tennessee Conservation League, Foundation for Global Sustainability, Ecological Society of America, the Stewardship Committee of the Site Specific Advisory Board, and Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere. DOE officials indicated that substantial progress had recently been made on two other fronts:

- (1) an agreement between DOE and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency on the management of the 3,000-acre Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge; and
- (2) an agreement between DOE and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation on preservation of State Natural Areas on the Oak Ridge Reservation. The original number of natural areas was 8, and there has been interest in designating additional ones. It was not made clear how many, and which ones, of the natural areas were involved in the agreement being negotiated.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Our representatives in Washington need to know that there is popular support for preservation of the 30,000 acre Oak Ridge Reservation as the last remaining forest tract of its size in the Ridge and Valley Province of Tennessee. Contact your representative and senators. Congressman Zach Wamp is a key legislator, since he sits on the Department of the Interior Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee and represents the district that contains the Oak Ridge Reservation. Address on p.2.

8. NATIONAL ISSUES

A. New National Monuments, and attacks on them

Due to Clinton Administration initiatives there are yet two more National Monuments that will preserve outstanding natural resources.

- On April 15, Pres. Clinton proclaimed a new Sequoia National Monument, which sets aside 328,000 acres of California's Sierra Nevada, including half the state's remaining sequoia groves. Not only are sequoias among the oldest and largest living things on Earth (some exceed 30 feet in trunk diameter, are higher than the Statue of Liberty, and are older than 3,000 years), but their old-growth ecosystem support many rare species. The new Monument protects 38 sequoia groves; another 25 are protected in Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. That adds to 63 of the 75 groves that currently remain in the country. Logging will be phased out in the new Monument; only non-motorized recreation will be allowed.
- On June 9, Vice President Gore announced designation of the new Hanford Reach National Monument, which protects the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River, undeveloped for more than a half-century by reason of having been a security buffer for the Hanford nuclear site. Sadly, a part of the new Monument was consumed by fire just a couple of weeks after its designation.
- One of the riders that have been undemocratically attached to the "must-pass" Interior Appropriations bill (see also [1A, this NL]), is one, added in the House, that would potentially prohibit funding for the management of national monuments designated since 1999. It would also place dangerous restrictions on any future monument designations. Since the time of Theodore Roosevelt, designation of national monuments by means of the Antiquities Act has been an accepted method of protecting highly significant (and often endangered) areas that are worthy of park status. Some of our best-known national parks started their existence as national monuments. But ever since Pres. Clinton designated the magnificent Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, anti-environmental forces in the Congress have been gunning for the Antiquities Act.

B. Park-funding bill needs support

There are many designated and proposed uses for off-shore oil-drilling receipts, for example the Land and Water Conservation Fund and funding proposed under CARA (NL233 17A). This bill, (S.2181, Bingham), however, takes care of a different need. Entitled the "Conservation and Stewardship Act," it would direct a small portion of the oil receipts to fund resource protection and restoration in the National Park System. Moneys could be used only for the protection of resources, and not for other expenses such

asroad construction, new visitor facilities, or routine maintenance activities. These, as well as land acquisition, receive funding from other sources.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your senators (see p.2) and urge them to endorse the National Park System Resource Protection Fund by cosponsoring S.2181.

C. OSM has a new director

On April 7, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced a new director, Kay Henry, for the US Office of Surface Mining (OSM). She replaces Kathy Karpan, who has long given evidence of courting the coal industry. The last straw was Karpan's seeking to become the new head of the National Mining Association, a powerful industry group. Karpan has been kicked upstairs to become Deputy Assistant Secretary.

D. Candidates for office

All of us should start studying the records and platforms of candidates for public office.

* CONGRESS

An environmental scorecard for our members of Congress during the 106th Congress (1999/2000) has been compiled by the Sierra Club Political Committee. It is based on 15 and 9 critical House and Senate votes, respectively. Not being for general distribution, it cannot be reproduced here. We may say, however that, although the Sierra Club's selection of indicator votes differs in several respects from that used by the League of Conservation Voters, the array of scores comes out fairly similar to the LCV scores, which we reproduce again below.

Name	Party Distr	1999	1997, 1998	1995, 1996
Senate				
Frist	R	0	27	7
Thompson	R	0	13	19
House				
Jenkins	R - 1	13	3	
Duncan	R - 2	13	14	15
Wamp	R - 3	13	10	15
Hilleary	R - 4	13	10	12
Clement	D - 5	44	66	65
Gordon	D - 6	56	62	62
Bryant	R - 7	6	10	0
Tanner	D - 8	31	38	31
Ford	D - 9	81	45	

* **Presidential candidates**

TIME magazine gave George W. Bush a "D" on the environment. It found that "Bush let industry write an anti-pollution measure, and [he] believes voluntary plans, not regulation, can clean up air and water. No wonder Texas has a worldwide pollution problem."

9. TCWP NEWS

A. Annual Meeting plans progressing

For our October 28 Annual Meeting at the Norris Dam State Park Tearoom, the morning program will be devoted to Tennessee State Lands—including parks, natural areas, and forests. We are now in progress of lining up speakers from state agencies and the private sector who will cover the various sub-topics in an informative and stimulating fashion. In the afternoon, there will be hikes and other outings, including, hopefully this year, a boat ride. More details later, but block the date on your calendar NOW.

B. Recent TCWP events

- **Display:** Oak Ridge May 1st, May 20. A TCWP display table during the Mayfest attracted several attendees.
- **Program:** Chip Mills and Logging, June 6. This first quarterly membership meeting featured an illustrated talk by Cielo Sand, co-director of the Forest Watch Program (NL233 ¶11A) and attracted about 35 people, including Will Calloway, the Democratic challenger for the 3rd District Congressional seat. The informative talk stimulated numerous questions, and quite a few of the attendees stayed for refreshments.
- **Outing:** Scott's Gulf, June 17.

[Contributed by Chuck Estes]

This trip allowed 19 participants to view the latest Bridgestone/Firestone land donation (NL233 ¶4A). Two hikes were held in succession: the first along the bluffs to overlook the Caney Fork gorge; the second, a 5-mile loop down to the river, looking at waterfalls and a heron rookery, and enjoying the Mountain Camellia in full bloom. We are hoping to arrange another Scott's Gulf outing for the fall.

C. Upcoming events

We are hoping to sponsor a discussion of environmental issues between the two candidates for the 3rd District Congressional seat. Will Calloway (Democrat) has already accepted, but we

are still awaiting a response from incumbent Zach Wamp (Republican), whom we have invited to name a date of his choice.

The scheduling of our next quarterly membership meeting depends on whether, and when, the Calloway-Wamp environmental debate takes place. We are aiming for September, with a speaker to address air quality in the Smokies.

D. Recent committee activities

- The Service Committee (Eric Hirst, chairman) has been busy bringing off the various events summarized in 198, and planning for future events and for the annual meeting.
- The Parks Committee is temporarily adjourned, awaiting Jenny Freeman's (its chairman's) return from her fabulous one-year trip around North America.
- The Water Issues Committee (Chuck Estes, chairman) has been concentrating on actions involving the Big South Fork General Management Plan (GMP) and the Roads & Trails Plan. The committee will plan a strategy, and organize groups of volunteers, for gathering data on water pollution and erosion that result from various recreational activities in the BSNKRA - data that were lacking in the GMP draft. A meeting has been arranged with Kris Stoehr, the new Site Manager for the Obed WSR. Scott's Gulf and Copper Hill pollution are among other topics addressed by the committee.
- The Mailing Committee (Charlie Klabunde, chairman) was recently formed to take care of assembling and mailing the Newsletter and various special mailings. We aim to recruit enough members to reduce the time required for any individual volunteer to just a few hours a year. If you can help with this important task, call Charlie (483-8055), Marcy (865-691-8807), or Sandra (865-522-3809).

E. TCWP donates money for cave protection

TCWP's treasury includes a fund that was donated in memory of TCWP member Francis E. McKinney, an avid caver and wilderness supporter who died in 1975 in a caving accident in Mexico. After donating the bulk of this fund to a bat-cave-gating project at Tobaccoport Cave about a decade ago, \$830 remained. With Board support, Treasurer Charlie Klabunde offered this sum for a gate at Wolf River Cave, but learned that this gate has just been completed by two dozen volunteers from

four states. It is being managed by a local caving club, the Upper Cumberland Grotto, which will allow recreational access to the cave from May through September, when the endangered bats are not hibernating.

However, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) informed Charlie that it was involved in two additional cave-gating projects, one at Marcom Cave in Clay County and the other at the Tobaccoport Cave (a new gate). Both will be worked on August 1-7, and extra money will be needed. TCWP will donate its memorial fund to one or both of these (following further contacts with TNC).

F. Fund-raising capsules

- Community Shares
Our new membership in Community Shares (CS) will entail some efforts on our part. Most of CS funding comes from workplace giving. Member organizations are encouraged to find additional workplaces willing to participate in the CS giving program. Like United Way, CS lists its member organizations, and employees can designate where they want their contributions to go. From any workplace that TCWP members manage to recruit, TCWP would receive all of the first year's undesignated contributions (as well as, of course, any contributions specifically designated for TCWP). If your own workplace is not participating in CS, find out if there might be a possibility of recruiting them. CS is not really in competition with United Way, because it has a different focus; many of its organizations work for social change, which can reduce the poverty situations for which many of the United Way Organizations collect money.
- TCWP has applied to the River Network/Tennessee Clean Water Network for a mini-grant to fund the development of a display board with related materials and handouts.
- Our mid-year contributions appeal letter has just been mailed to members. All responses will be greatly appreciated.
- Our new Tee Shirts are still in plentiful supply (see NL233 111C for description). They sell for \$12.00 (plus \$3.00 S&H). A variety of sizes is available. For orders, or for more information, contact Sandra K. Goss at 865-522-3809 or skgoss@spcu.com.

10. JOB OPPORTUNITIES; CALENDAR; RESOURCES

Job opportunity: Cumberland Trail

The Cumberland Trail Conference offers a post-graduate program interposition, 9/1/00-6/4/01. Housing and living stipend provided. Duties include organization and leadership of CTC volunteer trail-building & education programs. (Contact Rob Weber, Exec. Dir., CTC, 19 East 4th Street, Crossville, TN 38555.)

Volunteer opportunity: Smokies

The Appalachian Trail Conference is offering one or more 10-day stints of volunteering in the Rocky Top Crew for Trail rehabilitation/relocation, Food (lots), lodging (in tents), transportation, and equipment are provided. The work sessions start 9/1, 9/15, 9/29, and 10/13/00. For further info, contact Teresa Martinez at crews@atconf.org or call her at 540-544-7388.

Events and deadlines calendar (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com; or Marcy Reed, 423-691-8807, marcyreed@aol.com)

- July 28, deadline for commenting on elk introduction (¶6B, this NL).
- Aug. 12, 9:00-4:30, Chattanooga, "Strategies for River Conservation," a forum sponsored by American Rivers and NPS's Rivers & Trails Conservation Assistance Program; at the Tennessee Aquarium, Discovery Classroom. Contact Kristen McDonald, 202-347-7550, kmcdonald@amrivers.org. Or check the web site www.americanrivers.org/content/riversforum.doc.
- THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY WE SHOULD NOT MISS!
- Sept. 9, Obed WSR, repair of damages caused by climbers (¶3B, this NL).
- Sept. 12-15, Casper, Wyoming, Watchable Wildlife Conference (call 307-766-5637).
- Sept. 15, 11:00 a.m., Nemo Bridge, dedication of the Cumberland Trail, celebration of the completed Nemo segment, picnic, hikes; more hikes on Sept. 16 (¶3A, this NL).
- Sept. 15-17, Romayor, Texas, National Forest Reform Rally (contact TCONR, 1301 South IH 35, Suite 301, Austin, TX 78741).
- Sept. 23, National Public Lands Day (details on TCWP participation later).
- Oct. 28, TCWP Annual Meeting, Norris Dam State Park (¶9A, this NL).
- Nov. 7-8, Research Triangle Park, NC, Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SOFRA) Conference

on the science of forest assessment and sustainability (see ¶1E, this NL). Contact David Wear, davear@fs.fed.us or check the web site www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain/conf/.

Miscellaneous

- A lovely view of downstream Clear Creek (from Lilly Overlook) is depicted in signed and numbered prints of an original painting by renowned nature artist Terry Chandler (incidentally, the bluffs in the picture were once owned by Bill and Lee Russell). Chandler gave the Cumberland Trail Conference exclusive marketing rights for a limited number of these prints to raise funds for land acquisition in the Cumberlands. The pictures are available at the Appalachian Glass and Frame Shop, 206 Tyler Rd., Oak Ridge for \$40 unframed, \$139 matted and framed, \$199 deluxe framed. They do a very fine framing job. You can view the print on <http://www.mt.gov.com/cumberlandtrail>.
- The Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont has a varied and interesting Fall 2000 program. Contact them at 865-448-6709, gsmi@smokiesaha.org.