Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

1. Tennessee news ..... p. 3
A. Tennessee Wilderness Act has started to move
B. Legislative Scorecard for 2017
C. Volkswagen settlement yields opportunities for clean energy
D. Solar-Choice coalition is launched E. Invasive Species conference

2. Obed and Big South Fork ..... p. 4
A. Obed WSR recognized for night-sky viewing resources
B. TCWP supports students' backpacking trip to BSF
C. Obed and BSF capsules

3. TVA news ..... p. 4
A. Four nominated to TVA Board
B. TVA's more diversified energy mix
C. Amendments to Watts Bar Plan would accommodate power project
D. Discharge permit for Kingston power plant needs strengthening
E. TVA fights order to move Gallatin coal ash

4. Smokies: Update on Road to Nowhere ..... p. 5

5. National News ..... p. 6
A. National Monuments threatened by Administration AND Congress
B. Major increases in park entrance fees
C. Congress wants ANWR oil revenues to pay for tax cuts for the rich
D. Administration's war on science F. The value of wilderness
E. *Atrocious* bills G. Election results are good news for environment

The BIG stories

Tenn. Wilderness Act beginning to move ..... ¶1A

TVA re-zoning Watts Bar parcels for power dev't .. ¶3C

National Monuments seriously threatened ..... ¶5A

Shouldn't drill ANWR to pay for tax cuts for wealthy .. ¶5C

Trump wants repeal of Clean Power Plan ..... ¶6A

EPA proposes rolling back Clean Car standards ..... ¶6B

Power line proposed atop prominent O.R. ridge ..... ¶7

6. Energy; climate change ..... p. 7
A. Trump intends to repeal the Clean Power Plan
B. Pruitt attacks fuel-efficiency standards, which diminish GHGs from transportation sector
C. National Climate Assessment is most comprehensive analysis E. DOE supports bailout of coal plants
D. Climate denier nominated to head CEQ F. Health effects of global warming

7. Oak Ridge news: Major ridgetop threatened by power line p.10

8. TCWP news (Upcoming and recent activities; Members who died; Thanks; In the news; ED column; Student and teacher comments on BSF backpacking trip) p.10

9. Calendar; Resources ..... p. 13

10. ACTION SUMMARY ..... p. 2

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

10. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Tenn. Wilderness Act	Sens. Alexander & Corker	"Thank you for supporting TN wilderness!
1B	Tenn. General Assembly	Your state legislators	"I care about the environment"
1C	Volkswagen settlement	Gov. Haslam	"Spend VW funds for transition to clean transportation!"
3C	Rezoning for power project	TVA, by Nov. 22	"Do not destroy sensitive resources on these parcels!"
3D	Discharge permit for Kingston	TDEC (at Dec. 7 hearing)	"Update and strengthen water pollution permit!"
5B	Increase in Park entrance fees	NPS, by Nov.23	"Don't discourage park visits! Fund maintenance, instead!"
5C	Destroying ANWR by oil drilling	Your U.S. senators	"Reject tax bill! ANWR shouldn't have to pay for tax cuts!"
5E	Pending atrocious bills	Your U.S. Representative	"Strongly oppose HR.3668, HR.2936, HE.3548, and HR.3990!".
6B	Auto fuel-efficiency standards	Your U.S. senators and rep.	"Oppose Blunt/Upton bills that delay fuel efficiency progress!"
6D	Council on Environmental Quality	Your U.S. senators	"Oppose confirmation of Kathleen Hartnett-White!"
7	Power line atop Pine Ridge	Dale Christenson + Council	"I strongly oppose this project!"

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

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

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

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Pres. Donald Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111 (comments);
456-1414 (switchbd); Fax 456-2461
www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Governor Bill Haslam
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-9872
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Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

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Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-0566
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Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:
Phone: 202-225-3271
FAX: 202-225-3494
Local (O.R.): 865-576-1976
https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me

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

You can find contact information in our Political Guide. It's on TCWP's website (http://www.tcwp.org), as are some current "take action" alerts
You can also choose to receive e-lerts by contacting Sandra Goss (see below).

WHAT IS TCWP?

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

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1. TENNESSEE NEWS

1A. Tennessee Wilderness Act has started to move

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Earlier this month, the Tennessee Wilderness Act (along with the Virginia Wilderness Act) passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee. This very positive development was made possible by strong support from Senators Alexander and Corker. Both senators attended the committee meeting to praise the bill; in order to make a quorum, each was made an honorary member of the committee, after which they voted for the bill, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Now rolled into S. 2099, the Federal Lands Management Act of 2017, the two wilderness bills await consideration by the full Senate, possibly bundled into another must-pass vehicle.

The bill protects 19,556 acres in the Cherokee National Forest in East Tennessee by designating one new Wilderness Area (Upper Bald River), and expanding five existing Wilderness Areas.

- Upper Bald River Wilderness Area - 9,038 acres, Monroe County
- Joyce Kilmer/Slickrock Wilderness Addition - 1,836 acres, Monroe County
- Big Frog Wilderness Addition - 348 acres, Polk County
- Little Frog Wilderness Addition - 966 acres, Polk County
- Big Laurel Branch Wilderness Addition - 4,446 acres, Carter and Johnson counties
- Sampson Mountain Wilderness Addition - 2,922 acres, Washington and Unicoi counties.

Wilderness designation entails the most protective management practices.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Send thanks to Senators Alexander and Corker for their work on this bill. (See p.2 for addresses; or you can find their phone numbers and/or e-mail them easily from http://www.tnwild.org/get_involved.)

1B. Legislative Scorecard for 2017

Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) is a non-partisan organization, with 17 member organizations (including TCWP), dedicated to protecting Tennessee's natural environment through effective legislative and administrative advocacy. One way to hold our elected officials accountable is through an annual scorecard; TCV has recently issued its scorecard for 2017. To join TCV's free Legislative Update e-mail list, drop a line to info@tn.conservationvoters.org.

Unfortunately, the way Tennessee's legislature works makes it difficult to score performance of individuals. Most of the important legislative work and votes occur within the committee system, and floor votes alone yield a very incomplete indication of performance. The scorecard therefore gives positive or negative credit for committee votes and sponsorships. Not all legislators, however, are on committees that consider environmental bills.

Bearing these limitations in mind, the following legislators had the best voting and sponsorship record (score = positive minus negative actions): Senators Dickerson (20), Harper (19), Harris (29), Kyle (30). Representatives Clemmons (55), Gilmore (54), Parkinson (98), Stewart (52), Turner (85). Districts are shown in parentheses; all these legislators, except Sen. Dickerson, are Democrats. All are from the Nashville or Memphis area. Glancing down TCV's entire list of legislators, it is striking that scores for negative actions greatly exceed those for positive actions. The list of legislators with the worst voting and sponsorship record is too long to print here, and there are many more "worst" than "best" entries.

TCV reports that lobbying by interests that have a financial stake in opposing environmental measures was more prevalent and more sophisticated than ever this year, and suggests that the environmental community attempt to match this level of engagement.

The score card notes three steps that have led to significant successes over the past years.

- Developing good relations with decision makers.
- Contacting legislators with concise, persuasive, and accurate talking points.
- Holding legislators accountable and letting them know that we are paying attention to them.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Send a polite and professional e-mail to your legislators letting them know you care about the environment. To find your legislators and their e-mail addresses, consult the Political Guide (www.tcwp.org)

1C. Volkswagen settlement yields opportunities for clean energy

After Volkswagen was caught cheating on vehicle emissions tests in 2015, it made a $2.7 billion settlement with the Department of Justice. Part of the settlement was the creation of an Environmental Mitigation Trust. The state of Tennessee has until December 1 to claim its share of the settlement.

This is an opportunity to get as much of the money as possible allocated to speeding our transition to a clean transportation future. This can be accomplished by:

- Spending the full 15% of funds (maximum allowed) on electric vehicle charging stations
- Investing in electric transit and school buses
- Investing in electric vehicle fleets for government
- Supporting other vehicle electrification programs

Such initiatives will reduce greenhouse gases, give us healthier air to breathe, reduce the money sent out of state for petroleum, increase in-state jobs, and provide better vehicles for our citizens.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Gov. Haslam (address on p.2) to apply for the available VW funds to be spent for our transition to a clean transportation future (details in article, above).

1D. Solar-Choice coalition is launched for Tennessee

In response to TVA's perceived threat to the development of solar energy across the Valley, an initiative is being launched to defend fair access to affordable, renewable energy. A diverse coalition of groups has been formed with the aim of protecting Tennesseans' right to choose solar energy and ensure that decisions made by TVA are fair for all consumers.

According to their mission statement, *Tennesseans for Solar Choice* is a diverse and multi-partisan coalition, working to remove market barriers and enable the fair expansion of solar power to benefit all Tennesseans. For information, Contact: Alissa Jean Schafer, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Alissa@cleanenergy.org, 865-235-1448.

1E. Large Invasive Species conference to be held in Nashville

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

Innovations in Invasive Species Management Conference & Workshop will take place December 13-15, 2017, at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN. The five co-hosts are national and state councils and associations.

Topics to be presented include, among others, use of drones, staging Weed Wrangles, mapping, pollinator habitat management, native plant restoration, managing sensitive areas, and public communication. Outdoor demonstrations of equipment are planned. TCWP President Jimmy Groton (also a TN-IPC board member) will represent TCWP at a panel discussion about the use of Weed Wrangles to engage volunteers to help with invasive-plant management initiatives across the US.

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2. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

2A. Obed WSR recognized for night-sky viewing resources

[From NPS news release, 10/27/17]

The Obed Wild & Scenic River has been designated an International Dark Sky Association (IDA) International Dark Sky Park. Obed WSR is now the second National Park Service unit east of Colorado to earn this designation and the 17th national park in the United States to do so. Starry night skies are an important part of the special places the National Park Service protects. Obed Wild & Scenic River is one of these special places with a truly dark night sky. Among Obed's interpretive themes is a primary goal to reconnect life and nature by discussing the value of quiet, solitude, and even darkness in the noisy, frenetic, and developed world of the 21st century.

2B. TCWP supports students' backpacking trip to Big South Fork

TCWP provided funding for scholarships for three Jefferson Middle School (JMS) students so they could participate in a school-sponsored backpacking trip to the Big South Fork in late October. TCWP has had a long-standing relationship with the teachers and students at JMS. Our support for the Wilderness Connections program continues our engagement with the school. As described by the teachers who originated it, "this program offers seventh and eighth graders the opportunity to attend a three-day, two-night backpacking trip. During that time students work together as a team to accomplish a variety of tasks. This includes setting up shelters, preparing meals, participating in fire guard duty, packing one's backpack each day, and exploring the trails and backcountry of the Big South Fork."

For student reports of the October Big South Fork trip and some teachers' comments, see ¶8F, below.

2C. Obed and BSF Capsules

- The Obed WSR contains almost 75% of all the remaining populations of Cumberland Rosemary (Conradina verticillata), a federally threatened species endemic to the Cumberland Plateau.
- The viewfinder at the East Rim Overlook, Big South Fork NRRA, now has lenses for alleviating red-green color deficiency.
- NOAA's weather station for the North Cumberland Plateau area has been located in the Big South Fork NRRA.

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3. TVA NEWS

3A. Four nominated to the TVA Board

At the end of September, Pres. Trump nominated four men from four different states to fill positions on the 9-member TVA Board of Directors. They are Kenneth E. Allen of Kentucky, James R. Thompson III of Alabama, A.D. Frazier of Georgia, and Jeffrey Smith of Tennessee. The terms of the first two would extend to 2021, and of the second two to 2022. Smith is deputy director of operations at ORNL. Allen is retired from a coal company (Armstrong Energy) and comes with recommendations from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. The other two have positions with a bank and with an acquisition and investment company.

3B. TVA's more diversified energy mix

Although a former coal company executive has been nominated to the TVA Board, this should not be a source of worry that the utility is returning to coal in its energy mix. TVA used to operate 11 coal-fired energy plants, but now has only eight, and only six of these eight will be operating by the end of next year.

TVA's energy portfolio was as follows for FY 2016 (which ended 9/30/17).

33% nuclear
29% coal
16% natural gas
8% hydropower
14% power purchased from other providers, including solar and wind.

Coal at one time was responsible for 60% of TVA's energy production; that figure is now in the 20%s and is expected to drop to the teens by 2020.

The decision to reduce carbon output and diversify energy resources was made well before the Trump Administration, according to a spokesman; and, despite Trump's decision to drop out of the Paris Agreement, TVA is staying the course on its move toward cleaner energy. TVA's target is to reduce carbon output by 60% in 2020.

3C. Amendments to Watts Bar Plan would accommodate power project

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

In October TVA announced plans to change land use allocations for six parcels of public land on Watts Bar Reservoir. Of particular concern for TCWP, the proposed changes include reallocation of 172.3 acres of Parcel 144 at the Clinch River Site from Zone 3 (Sensitive Resource Management) to Zone 2 (Project Operations).

The affected parcel includes much of the riparian area around the peninsula that makes up the Clinch River Site. This riparian area includes many acres of sensitive wetlands and archaeological resources. In 2008 TCWP worked closely with TVA to protect these sensitive resources. Frank Hensley was particularly passionate about protecting the riparian zones.

TVA's proposed land-use change would support their plans to use this and several adjacent parcels for a proposed power-generation project. TVA has already applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to approve the site as suitable for construction of small modular nuclear reactors. TVA says that potential impacts to sensitive resources from the proposed power generation facility will be assessed during a separate site-specific environmental review to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposal. TVA says they would impose avoidance and mitigative measures to minimize adverse environmental effects at the site, but it is not clear how they would accomplish this.

TVA's proposed changes do not necessarily indicate a big change in how they will manage these resources. Several TVA employees have pointed out that many Zone-2 areas elsewhere on Watts Bar and other TVA reservoirs have similar sensitive resources that are unaffected by ongoing project operations. However, TCWP remains concerned about the long-term management and protection of sensitive resources within Parcel 144. We would like some assurance that TVA would continue to protect these resources and not sacrifice them for the sake of power production at the site.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The comment deadline, Nov. 22, is upon us, allowing communications only by e-mail to landplans@tva.gov.

3D. Discharge permit for Kingston Coal Plant needs strengthening

[Contributed by Bonnie Swinford]

TVA's Kingston Coal Plant is the site of the largest coal ash spill in history, which released over a billion gallons of toxic ash over 300 acres of land and into nearby waterways. This plant will continue polluting the Clinch River with toxics such as lead, mercury, arsenic, and selenium, unless TVA is required to curb coal plant pollution.

The Kingston plant has been operating with an expired and outdated water pollution permit, allowing TVA to indefinitely pollute Tennessee waters. We were hopeful a new permit would incorporate updated federal pollution standards that TVA said it could and would comply with. Sadly, TDEC's draft permit for the plant needlessly delays for years the cleanup of Kingston's toxic discharges.

TVA's attempts to avoid environmental protection are endangering downstream communities' drinking water and making fish unsafe to eat. TVA could use simple and affordable methods to eliminate Kingston's toxic pollution, but TDEC is letting TVA off the hook. Kingston will continue to pollute our water for years beyond even when TVA initially suggested it could clean up. The State of Tennessee must take action to protect our health and safety.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Speak out at one of the two upcoming hearings about TVA's expired Clean Water Act permit at the Kingston coal plant. Both will be held Thursday, Dec. 7. Each will be preceded by a 1-hour Informational Session.
Knoxville Hearing, 2:30-3:30 p.m., EST, TDEC Environmental Field Office, 3711 Middlebrook Pike.
Kingston Hearing, 6-7 p.m., EST, Roane County Courthouse, General Session Courtroom, 200 E. Race Street.

3E. TVA fights order to move Gallatin coal ash

On August 4, TVA was ordered by a US District Court to move and safely store the toxic coal ash from the utility's Gallatin Fossil Plant on the Cumberland River (NL335 ¶3B). Instead of complying, TVA chose to appeal that decision. The appeal will be heard by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

For more than a year, a dry storage landfill has been in operation onsite at Gallatin, handling *current* dry ash produced at the plant. The millions of tons of ash accumulated prior to that, however, are stored as wet sludge in unlined ponds.

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4. SMOKIES CAPSULE

Update on Road to Nowhere

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TCWP friend Ted Snyder has let us know that Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke stated that he had authorized the payment to Swain County of $4 million. Secretary Zinke made the statement at an event held at the Pisgah Inn celebrating the 101st birthday of the National Park Service.

The $4 million is an installment on the monetary settlement with Swain County made in lieu of construction of

the North Shore Road in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It was part of the FY 2012 appropriation, but NPS had refused to release it. Sec. Zinke said that appropriating more money would be up to Congress.

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5. NATIONAL NEWS

5A. Administration, as well as Congress, poised to diminish our National Monuments

The details of Sec. Zinke's recommendations to the President concerning our national monuments were revealed the day NL335 had gone off to the printer. As you may have learned since then, Zinke, despite conceding that comments were overwhelmingly in favor of maintaining all existing monuments, targeted 10 of the 27 monuments he had reviewed. He recommended shrinking the borders of four land monuments – dramatically in two cases (Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante) and changing management prescriptions (by facilitating resource extraction) for others. He also wants to see commercial fishing return to two marine monuments. If Trump acts on Zinke's recommendations, he is sure to face a number of law suits.

Congress is getting into the act of attacking national monuments. Early in October, Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) introduced HR.3990, mendaciously named the National Monument Creation and Protection Act, and allowed less than a week for discussion and debate before scheduling a vote by the House Committee on Natural Resources. HR.3990 sets acreage limits, NEPA requirements and state-approval requirements on new national monuments, effectively rendering it impossible for new national monuments to be designated; in fact, it prohibits the creation of new marine monuments. The bill also includes language granting the president the authority to shrink the size of our *existing* national monuments. This is an admission that the president does not presently have this authority.

5B. Administration proposes major increases in park-entrance fees to pay for maintenance

[With information from NPCA]

In late October, Interior Secretary Zinke proposed dramatic fee increases at 17 of the country's most popular national parks to be in effect during a 5-month peak seasons — in some cases doubling or nearly tripling current admission prices (to $70/car, $30/person) — as a way to address the agency's $11.3 billion repair backlog. The public comment period is only 30 days; it closes Nov. 23. The parks affected are Acadia, Arches, Bryce, Canyonlands, Denali, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Grand Teton, Joshua Tree, Mount Rainier, Olympic, Rocky Mountain, Sequoia & Kings Canyon, Shenondoah, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Zion.

These new drastic increases could create a serious financial barrier for many families. Being able to get out and enjoy nature is a vital part of appreciating and protecting America's natural treasures. We should be encouraging more people to experience these wonders; visiting our public lands should be as easy as possible.

Visitors should not be forced to pay today for the years of inadequate federal funding in the past that led to the massive Park Service maintenance backlog. What is needed is sensible long-term funding for NPS. A bill known as the National Park Service Legacy Act (NL333 ¶5C) would establish a dedicated park maintenance fund to invest a more substantial amount toward the Park Service repair backlog. This investment, plus a responsible current federal budget (instead of the currently proposed 13% cut to NPS's budget that the House of Representatives approved in September) would make real progress toward restoring and improving parks for the future — without creating hurdles that could keep people out of their public lands.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: We have very little time; comments are due by Nov. 23. To inform NPS of your opposition to the fee hike, and to suggest alternative ways of paying for park maintenance, visit: https://parkplanning.nps.gov/proposedpeakseasonfeerates and click on "Comment now/" Fill out the short form and write your comments in the space provided.

5C. Congress wants to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy by dooming ANWR

In the tax bill just passed by the House, oil and gas revenues derived from drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) are justified as part payment for the revenues lost by the huge decrease in taxes to be paid by the richest Americans. In fact, drilling in ANWR wouldn't fund even 0.1% of these tax cuts. And it would forever destroy the greatest wildlife refuge in America –America's Serengeti, where a huge caribou herd annually bears its calves, where migratory birds from all over the world lay their eggs on the tundra, where the rare muskoxen roam, where Arctic foxes and wolves and bears are still common. An incomparable wilderness stretching from the Brooks Range to the Arctic Ocean.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: That tax bill must never pass (for other reasons, too)! Without delay, contact your senators (addresses on p.2).

5D. Administration's war on science and scientists

Pruitt replacing scientists with industry proponents

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has announced that experts serving on the 22 boards that advise the agency on issues of science and public health will be replaced. The reason cited was that most of these individuals had previously received federal research grants that might bias them. There was no mention of individuals who had research funding from corporate interests regulated by EPA. Some of the dismissed scientists have been replaced with individuals who have track records of misrepresenting mainstream scientific understanding, promoting conspiracy theories, and directly

representing industries that are financially impacted by EPA decisions. It seems that people funded by special interests, especially the fossil-fuel and chemical industries, are considered OK to be advisors.

Prominent among advisory committees are the Science Advisory Board, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, and Board of Scientific Counselors (in May, Pruitt announced that 9 of the 18 members of that Board would not be reappointed to a second three-year term, as is customary).

Scientists targeted at Dept. of Interior

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is reassigning perhaps as many as 50 top career officials from high positions involving science policy to merely bureaucratic appointments. Among the first of these was Interior's top climate policy official, Joel Clement, who directed the Office of Policy Analysis. He was moved to the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, which collects royalty payments. Clement filed a complaint with the Office of Special Counsel, accusing USDI of retaliating against him for speaking out about climate change. Another high official who was reassigned was the Southeast Regional Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Cindy Dohner.

5E. Congress spews forth a number of atrocious bills

Below are just a few of the worst

The SHARE Act, HR.3668

The NRA-backed Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2017 is a thinly disguised measure to gut the 1964 Wilderness Act and the protections afforded to every unit of America's 110 million-acre National Wilderness Preservation System. Among other provisions, the SHARE Act would allow extensive habitat manipulations in wilderness under the guise of "wildlife conservation," construction of "temporary roads, construction of dams, buildings and other structures. It would exempt such projects from NEPA, eliminating critical environmental analysis of potential impacts and alternatives, and public comment and involvement.

The SHARE Act passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee on Sept. 13. The Senate version, S.733 is awaiting floor action but does not contain the bad wilderness provisions.

The Resilient Federal Forests Act, HR.2936

This bill is an extreme attack on our national forests and many of our bedrock public lands laws, using the phony rationales of fire management and disease control. It leaves millions of acres of protected roadless areas vulnerable to harmful road building and logging, shifts funding away from environmental restoration to timber production, guts Endangered Species Act protections, removes requirements that are critical to safeguarding waterways and water quality across our national forests, and cuts out meaningful public involvement provided by NEPA. As an extra bonus, it overrides the designation of a National Monument (Cascade-Siskiyou). The true objective of HR.2986 is to dramatically increase industrial logging across all of America's 155 National Forests, as well as federal public forests administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Border bills, HR.3548, HR.3593

Several border bills in Congress threaten Wildernesses along the Mexican AND Canadian borders (including the border between Alaska and Canada). HR.3548 would waive dozens of federal laws, including the 1964 Wilderness Act, within 100 miles of the northern and southern borders. This bill was marked up in the Homeland Security Committee in early October. HR 3593 would directly amend the 1964 Wilderness Act and weaken it for border security purposes, but this bill has not yet moved in Congress.

: Urge your Congressman (address on p.2) to strongly oppose HR.3668, HR.2936, and HE.3548. (addresses on p.2). Provide a brief reason for each one. You may also wish to include HR.3990 (see ¶5A, above).

5G. The value of wilderness

[From an essay by Kelby Ouchley in Facebook]

Today, more than 750 official wilderness areas are found in 44 states and encompass almost 110 million acres.

Detractors claim that too much of the country is tied up in wilderness areas that shackle their ability to exploit natural resources. In fact, just over 4% of the United States is designated wilderness. Cynics ignore very real ecosystem services afforded by wilderness areas such as the protection of watersheds that provide clean drinking water, the filtration of air we breathe, and the protection of wildlife habitat. From an economic perspective, wilderness areas boost local economies with tourism and recreation dollars. For many of us the aesthetic worth of visiting a wilderness area, or just knowing they exist in an otherwise chaotic world, is incalculable.

5F. Recent election results are good news for environment

[Information from League of Conservation Voters]

In both of the states that recently held gubernatorial elections, environmental champions were the winners. Phil Murphy in NJ embraced the 100% clean-energy-by-2050 goal, and Ralph Northam in VA ran the first ad ever by a statewide candidate criticizing his opponent for opposing the Paris climate accord. In Washington state, a pro-environment majority was created in the state Senate, securing a green block up and down the west coast.

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6. ENERGY; CLIMATE CHANGE

As President Obama has said, we're the first generation to feel the effects of climate change and we may be the last generation with the ability to do something about it.

6A. Trump intends to repeal the Clean Power Plan

On October 9, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the Administration's intention to scuttle the Clean Power Plan, which he called a declaration of "war on [a] sector of our economy." Revoking or weakening the Clean Power Plan ignores settled law that greenhouse gases are pollutants under the Clean Air Act, and that EPA has a responsibility to protect the public from this harmful pollution. In 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court found that the Clean Air Act provision that underlies the Clean Power Plan "speaks directly" to climate pollution from existing power plants.

The Clean Power Plan sets the nation's first-ever limits on carbon pollution from power plants, the largest U.S. source of greenhouse gases. In 2015, EPA, under Administrator Gina McCarthy, valued the Clean Power Plan's climate benefits at $20 billion and its health benefits at $14-34 billion, once fully implemented in 2030. Annual health benefits, mostly due to the decrease in deadly fine-particle pollution, include avoidance of 3,600 premature deaths; 90,000 asthma attacks in children; 1,700 hospital admissions; and 300,000 missed days of school and work. Other air pollutants that would be greatly reduced or eliminated include smog (ground-level ozone), sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides that together cause asthma attacks, heart attacks and strokes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and even early death.

The current EPA's proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan uses crooked math to artificially lower the benefits of the pollution reductions that the Plan would have brought. For example, EPA fails to account for the fact that actions to cut carbon emissions also pay large dividends by reducing other forms of harmful pollution like soot and smog.

Undoing the Clean Power Plan will not bring back coal. The Union of Concerned Scientists released an analysis in early November showing that a number of the operating coal units in the country are uneconomic. More than one-third of the nation's coal-fired electricity is either already slated to go offline, or is more expensive to operate than existing natural gas plants. Eliminating the Clean Power Plan won't change this.

6B. Pruitt attacks fuel-efficiency standards, which diminish our second-largest contribution to greenhouse gases

Operation of motor vehicles in the USA generates greenhouse gases (GHG) second in amount only to those contributed by fossil-fuel-fired power plants. Our cars and trucks account for 45% of oil used in the US and nearly 1/3 of our GHG emissions. In 2012, EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) set light-duty vehicle standards that will nearly double the efficiency of new cars and light trucks by 2025. A recent midterm review showed that the standards were working (NL333 ¶6E). Now, however, they are in great danger of being scrapped by both Trump's EPA and by the Congress.

Earlier this year, EPA Administrator Pruitt held a series of closed-door meetings with auto-industry executives and lobbyists, and subsequently announced EPA's intention to reopen and expand the scope of the review of the clean-car standards, with the likely intention of rolling them back. In October, a bill was introduced by Sen. Blunt (R-MO) and Rep. Upton (R-MI) that would significantly slow automakers' progress on making cars more fuel efficient into the future. Ultimately, this bill would increase oil use by 350 million barrels of oil, increase global warming emissions by 155 million metric tons, and take money ($34 billion!) directly out of American families' wallets.

The fuel-efficiency standards set in 2012, and supported by about 80% of Americans have numerous benefits (data from UCS)

- Reduce global warming emissions
- Reduce oil use (12 billion barrels by 2025)
- Benefit public health
- Give consumers more efficient energy choices
- Yield savings at the pump. (By 2030, gas savings outweigh the cost of more efficient car by an average of $3,150 per Tennessee household)
- Savings reinvested in the economy. The standards will increase GDP by up to $30 billion by 2030, creating 650,000 full-time jobs
- Disproportionately benefit lower-in- come individuals because a greater share of their income is spent on fuel
- Create certainty for manufacturers and suppliers, thus creating jobs.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your members of Congress (addresses on p.2) to oppose Blunt/Upton bills that would delay progress in making cars more fuel efficient.

6C. The long-awaited National Climate Assessment is most comprehensive analysis

[From *The Atlantic*]

The National Climate Assessment, a report on the science and impacts of global warming that Congress requires agencies to complete every four years, was published Nov. 3 by four agencies (NASA, NOAA, DOE, EPA) and academics from 11 institutions across the country. The first volume has been reviewed meticulously by panels of the National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Global-Change Research Program. A draft version of the second volume, on the human impacts of climate change, was also released.

There had been some worry that the Trump administration would try to suppress the release of the report, which was authored by Obama-agency scientists. Comparisons of the published version with the final draft, leaked over the summer (almost 700 pages, not counting appendixes), are presently being conducted. The only difference noted so far is the removal of some references to the Paris Agreement.

This is the most comprehensive assessment and analysis of climate science currently available in the world, and it reaffirms much of what we've already known. The last

major synthesis of climate science, as a field, was published in 2013. Among what has changed over those four years, are significant updates to how the field understands the interaction between global warming and hurricane strength.

The report finds that the world can continue to emit carbon for only another ~23 years at current levels before it will have a more than two-thirds chance of exceeding the limit (2ºC) beyond which dangerous climate change is likely.

The authors caution that current climate models are more likely to *underestimate* future warming than overestimate it. There may be tipping points in the climate system -- difficult-to-predict points of no return -- as critical thresholds are crossed and/or multiple climate-related extreme events occur simultaneously.

Conclusions listed in the executive summary are identified as to degree of confidence with which they apply. The following is a selection from conclusions classified "very high confidence."

- Average annual temperature in the contiguous U.S. has increased 1.8ºF (1.0ºC) for the period 1901-2016 and is projected to continue to rise. Extreme temperatures are projected to increase even more than average temperatures
- The number of high temperature records set in the past two decades far exceeds the number of low temperature records
- Global mean sea level has risen by about 7-8" (16-21 cm) since 1900, with about 3 of these inches (7 cm) occurring since 1993. [The world ocean is almost certain to rise 1-4 ft by the end of this century. And if some of the fastest scenarios for the melting of the Antarctic come to pass, then the sea could rise as much as eight feet]
- The world's oceans are currently absorbing more than a quarter of the CO_2 emitted to the atmosphere annually from human activities, making them more acidic, with potential detrimental impacts to marine ecosystems
- Annual average near-surface air temperatures across Alaska and the Arctic have increased over the past 50 years at a rate more than twice as fast as the global average temperature
- Since the early 1980s, annual average arctic sea ice has decreased in extent between 3.5% and 4.1% per decade, has become thinner by between 4.3 and 7.5 feet, and is melting at least 15 more days each year. September sea ice extent has decreased between 10.7% and 15.9% per decade
- In 2014 and 2015, carbon emission growth rates slowed. Even if this slowing trend continues, however, it is not yet at a rate that would meet the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 3.6ºF (2ºC) above preindustrial levels.

6D. Another climate-change denier nominated by Trump

Pres. Trump has nominated Kathleen Hartnett-White to head the Council on Environmental Quality. The CEQ is tasked with coordinating Federal environmental efforts, and works with agencies and White House offices in the development of environmental policies and initiatives, i.e., policies that "promote the improvement of environmental quality and meet the Nation's goals." CEQ plays a big role in implementing NEPA.

Kathleen Hartnett-White, who currently works at a Koch brothers-funded and Exxon-funded, anti-environment think tank, has built her career on attacking the environment and prioritizing the interests of the fossil fuel industries that cause our valuable natural resources the most harm. One of her many claims is that labeling CO_2 emissions as a pollutant -- as established by the Supreme Court -- is "absurd."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your senators NOT to confirm Hartnett-White to CEQ, an agency that is supposed to safeguard the air we breathe, the water we drink.

6E. DOE's energy report supports bailout of aging coal and nuclear plants

[Information from *Tennes-Sierran*, vol.50, No.5]

An insightful and well-reasoned draft report by DOE was rewritten by Sec. Perry's staff with the overall message that coal and nuclear plants are vital to our electric grid's long-term reliability and that there will be increasing demand for them. The intention is to convince FERC, market operators, and utilities to bail out aging coal and nuclear plants by having electricity customers pay more for their power.

The original report, based on studies from energy-policy experts and major universities, had found that wind and solar energy contributed to the affordability, reliability and resilience of the grid, lowered prices for customers, and would continue to grow rapidly in the future.

6F. Study on health effects of global warming

A large study published in the medical journal *Lancet* in October, compiles information on health problems in relation to increases in global temperatures. It concludes that, based on 40 indicators, "the human symptoms of climate change are unequivocal and potentially irreversible."

Among the dramatic effects are increases in the incidence of diseases transmitted by insects and arachnids. Climate change, with shorter freeze seasons, yields more places for these vectors to live, and longer periods of time in which they can be active. The incidence of dengue fever, a mosquito-borne disease has doubled every decade since 1990; in 2013, there were 58.4 million cases (10,000 deaths). There has been a large increase in the number of individuals afflicted by tick-borne Lyme disease.

The increase in flooding and droughts brought about by climate change produces food shortages that have a direct effect on health.

People over 65, or those with chronic diseases are particularly vulnerable to heatwaves. Between 2000 and 2016, that vulnerable population increased by about 125 million.

7. OAK RIDGE NEWS

Major ridgetop threatened by power line

[Contributed by Melanie Mayes]

Oak Ridge residents and its ecosystems are being threatened by a new DOE plan to install a large power line along the top of Pine Ridge, located between the Y-12 Security Complex and two Oak Ridge neighborhoods (Scarborough and Groves Park Commons). In early November, the NNSA (National Nuclear Security Administration) announced plans to start clearing the 100-foot wide power-line path on November 16. The project, which is designed to serve the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF), is 2.1 miles long, will be visible throughout Oak Ridge, and will involve installing 32 ~80-foot-tall transmission towers. The DOE did not notify the Oak Ridge City Council in advance of its plans.

City Council members first expressed concern at a work session on Nov. 7, at which they heard from Dale Christenson, the Federal Project Director for the UPF. Mr. Christenson stated that the siting was determined by TVA and was chosen to minimize impacts to structures near Y-12, and that the timing was to avoid disturbing endangered bat populations. Up to three different routes were discussed with TVA, but those alternative routes and the ensuing discussion have not been made public. Mr. Christensen did not agree to consider any of the Council's suggestions or to delay the start of logging.

At its regular meeting on November 13, City Council expressed serious concern with the late notice of the project. Some Council members suggested that NEPA (the National Environmental Policy Act) was violated by not providing the opportunity for public comments.

Council unanimously approved a letter to be sent to NNSA, with copies to a considerable number of high federal and state officials and politicians. The letter requests that the UPF project team "review the feasibility of alternate routes to the electrical substation project that would reduce or eliminate the anticipated environmental and community impact. The additional time is needed to demonstrate that all feasible alternatives have been fully explored."

Three days after the Council meeting, NNSA stood down from the originally scheduled start date of Nov. 16 (when logging was to be initiated), and called a meeting for Nov. 29 that will involve the City, TVA, and NNSA. It is anticipated that the meeting will be open to the public.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: (1) Without delay, contact Dale Christenson, Federal Project Director, UPF Project (dale.christenson@upo.doe.gov), with copies to Oak Ridge City Council (citycouncil@oakridgetn.gov), to express your opposition to the project. You may also wish to send copies to Gov. Haslam and the Tenn. Congressional delegation (addresses on p.2). For talking points, see article above (also, damage to prized ridgetop esthetics, property values, failure to seek community comments, etc.) (2) Plan to attend the November 29 meeting.

8. TCWP NEWS

8A. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

TCWP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 14

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

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

Whites Creek Trail workday – Saturday, January 13

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

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

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

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

8B. Recent events

Fall Flowers in a Power Line Prairie - September 16

[Contributed by Larry Pounds and Paul Durr]

We gathered in Soddy-Daisy to get a last-of-the-season dose of wildflowers. After caravanning onto the Plateau to a trailhead on the Cumberland Trail, we began our hike by passing through a young pine-upland hardwood forest dominated by

black oak and Virginia pine. Of note were several nice examples of sand hickory and blackjack oak. Common in the understory were clasping heart-leaved aster, Sampson's snakeroot (*Orbexilum*), and blue-stemmed goldenrod.

Within a quarter of a mile we broke out into an open power line right-of-way that unfortunately had recently been mowed. Despite this, however, we were able to see a wide variety of composites along the woodland edge, including numerous goldenrod species, American asters, rosinweeds, and golden asters. The site also provided us an opportunity to see some fall-flowering grasses. The star of the show seemed to be the relatively rare narrowleaf bluecurls (*Trichostema setaceum*) which contrasted nicely with its bigger cousin, the forked bluecurls (*T. dichotomum*), which was growing nearby.

Beyond the power line we proceeded into another dry forested area before stopping to eat lunch near a rockhouse and small stream. Afterwards we continued on, enjoying the common Cumberland Plateau flora, unusual rock formations, and great company.

National Public Lands Day Cleanup at Worthington Cemetery -- Saturday, September 30

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

Once again TCWP celebrated National Public Lands Day (NPLD) at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area (ESA) on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. NPLD is an annual event that focuses on both user enjoyment and the celebrating of volunteer conservation efforts on public lands. As in years past, TCWP partnered with TVA for a day of observation of and education about the unique history of the Worthington family, the native plants and habitats in the study area, and the invasive exotic plants that also grow there. In the spirit of NPLD, we continued our work to remove the exotic invasive plants and restore the native cedar barren.

This year more than 35 people helped with the NPLD event, including several Oak Ridge High School students and ORHS teacher Beth Adler. We began the activities with an interpretive walk and a talk on birding by TVA retirees Wes James and Chuck Nicholson, and a discussion of the plants of the ESA by TCWP Board member and botanist Larry Pounds. Ann and Jess Worthington then shared their story about the Worthington family. After that we continued our work to restore the native cedar barren and to remove exotic invasive plants and trash. TVA also provided several birdhouses that we helped put up in the wetland near the birdwatching area and around the cemetery.

While we were gathered at the ESA, TCWP presented a check to Jefferson Middle School science teacher John Beard, funding scholarships for three JMS students to participate in a school-sponsored backpacking trip to the Big South Fork in late October (see ¶2B and ¶8F, this NL).

At the completion of our work, TCWP provided a pizza lunch to all volunteers. We don't know what it was about this year's event, but everybody seemed to have an especially great time.

Norris Watershed Hike - Saturday, October 21

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Fifteen folks participated in this hike, led by Joe Feeman. The Watershed, a 2,300-acre forest that adjoins Norris Dam State Park, is managed for water quality protection, sustainable forest management, and public recreation, and showcases various timber harvesting and management techniques. Hikers saw two clear-cuts (1971 and 2014) and a site that was burned in April 2016. Participants also saw a harvest from 1975, and could compare the results of a selective timber harvest site with the clear-cut sites.

Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup – Saturday, November 4

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

Rain was threatening but held off, and eight participants (including two Oak Ridge High School students) came out to work at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren in our third and final cleanup of the year. Lots of privet and bush honeysuckle were removed or trimmed from the perimeter, and smaller woody plants from the interior of the ellipse area. There were more discussions on possible controlled burn and/or mowing options to improve the more native-like character of the open Barren. The trail to the front was trimmed, and some good work done in propping up the front wooden fence posts to last a few more years until replacement is needed. A pizza lunch was enjoyed afterwards.

Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the Cedar Barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. Our efforts in spring, summer and fall cleanups help to eliminate invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sunlight.

8C. Remembering TCWP members who died this year

Francis Perey, a remarkable person -- theoretical physicist, Renaissance Man, adventurous world traveler (he and his wife Claire sailed across the Atlantic in their small boat) -- died on October 1. He had created TCWP's first website and for years served as our efficient webmaster. We recommend you read his wonderful obituary, which he probably wrote himself (http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/knoxnews/obituary.aspx?n=francis-george-jaques-perey&pid=186881651&fhid=31105).

Sal Smith died about a fortnight before Francis. She was the wife of well-know, long-time member Hal Smith, and had served as TCWP secretary in one of our earlier years.

Janet Lowrie, who died November 12, had long and faithfully served on our Program Committee.

During the summer, we lost Ed Sonder (NL334 ¶9C).

8D. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to

[compiled by Sandra Goss]

-- Larry Pounds for his leadership of the Hike in a Prairie Powerline.

-- Tennessee Native Plant Society for their willingness to cosponsor the September-16 Prairie Powerline Hike.

-- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Bob Compton, Katherine Hensley, Harriette McCurdy, Eileen Neiler, Lise Neiler, Marese Nephew, Marti Salk, Jimmy Groton, for their help with distributing the TCWP Newsletter.

-- Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, Wes James, and Larry Pounds for their leadership of the September 30 National Public Lands Day event.

-- TVA Natural Resource Division and particularly Senior Watershed Representative Angela Sutton for partnering with TCWP to steward the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area.

-- Ann Worthington for her enjoyable and interesting presentation about the Worthington family at the NPLD event.

-- Joe Feeman for ably leading a hike in the Norris Municipal Watershed on October 21.

-- Chuck Coutant, Chairman; Don Barger; and Sam Suffern for serving on the Nominating Committee.

-- Mary Lynn Dobson, Cindy Kendrick, Carol McCold, and Willa Reister for helping with thank you notes.

-- Lise Neiler for helping mail the Annual Meeting brochure.

-- Johnny Cosgrove for his help with a flyer for the Tennessee Wilderness Act.

-- Tim Bigelow, Jimmy Groton, and Larry Pounds for their leadership of the November 4 Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Invasive Plant Removal outing.

-- Johnny Cosgrove, Jimmy Groton, Jamie Herald, Jan Lyons for their help publicizing the October Norris Watershed hike, November-4 Oak Ridge Cedar Barren clean-up, and the November-18 Annual Meeting.

-- Mary Lynn Dobson for helping with the Year-end-appeal mailing.

-- Lee Russell for writing Action Calls for the TCWP website, and Johnny Cosgrove for getting them posted.

8E. Friends and members in the news

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

TCWP Newsletter welcomes members letting us know about their recent mentions in printed media.

Send news of you being in the news to sandra@sandrakgoss.com, or 865.583-3967.

-- Tom Burns was quoted in a September-24 *News Sentinel* article about the Oak Ridge Friendship Bell.

-- Mick Wiest was pictured in October-6 *Oak Ridger* coverage of Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association celebration.

-- Don Clark penned a letter to the *Crossville Chronicle* editor on October 10 about the Middle East.

-- Tim Bigelow is pictured in the November-3 *News Sentinel*.

8F. Executive Director's Column

In this month of Thanksgiving, there's much to be grateful for, including you, our valuable members and readers. Every TCWP hike, program, or outing reminds me of our collective good manners and civility, as well as our critical-thinking skills. Thank you for the association; it does my heart good.

The year is drawing to a close (rather rapidly) and that means it's nearly time for the TCWP Holiday Party. This is a very enjoyable event. If you're feeling a little uncomfortable about attending, please give me a call (865-805-1470). I'll be glad to walk you in and introduce you to some people.

Another near-future event is our next Program Committee meeting. This is scheduled for Monday, December 11, at 7:00. The meetings are held at the TCWP office in the Oak Ridge First Presbyterian Church at the corner of Lafayette and Oak Ridge Turnpike. The Program Committee is responsible for planning and implementing our events, such as hikes, informational programs, etc. We're a small group of 8-10 folks. We would welcome a few additional members.

Soon, we'll be mailing out the Year End Appeal letter. Your support is crucial to continuing important work. 2017 is marked by memorable developments:

The ridgeline of the North Cumberlands was ruled unsuitable for surface mining, insuring the preservation of scenic ridgelines and headwaters of important waterways.

The Tennessee Wilderness Act, which will provide wilderness management for 6 special places in Cherokee National Forest, has passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee, the furthest it's ever progressed. Both of these projects had strong coalitions working on them, and it's years long work!

I'm thankful for our strong allies in projects, thankful for the help and support from TCWP members. Please continue to help us take care of wild places.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Sandra

8F. Students and teachers comment on BSF backpacking trip supported by TCWP (see ¶2B)

Alex writes:

"This Wilderness Connections Backpacking Trip was my first time camping and backpacking. I had no idea what to expect. We visited Twin Arches, Breakaway Point, and the Charit Creek Lodge. Breakaway Point astounded me with its view. I could see for miles. The Twin Arches were equally magnificent at how they formed. The first night, the temperature was around 32°F! During fireguard that night, I got a chance to see many more stars than I could normally see, it was beautiful! I also got to experience going off the path. Going through the woods was amazing! I had to carry everything I ate, wore, and used. This weighed about 30 pounds but got lighter as the trip went on. This trip was a great experience."

Amelia writes:

"From this year's Fall Backpacking trip, I have learned a lot. Though I have been on this trip before, I have definitely benefited from this one. Living outside for a few days has given me a greater appreciation and respect for nature, drilling into my head the fact that nature is truly beautiful, and that we should do our best to conserve it. Being away from the city has not only shown me the beauty of nature, but this trip has also taught me to persevere through hard times, and to help out others in need. I would definitely go on this trip again and would recommend it to 7th and 8th graders at JMS with this wonderful opportunity."

Madelyn writes:

"We saw some of the wildlife living in the Big South Fork while on our hikes. I found a little turtle that fit into the palm of my hand, with room to spare. Its tiny legs rubbing against my hand felt peculiar and tickled. It had a flattish shell with a small ridge down its back. I also caught crawdads in a couple of the streams we crossed. I caught three, two small, and a larger one. When I first cupped the big one in my hands, it pinched me, and I nearly dropped it. Bad crayfish!"

Some teachers' comments:

"This past October Scott Linn, Julie McCullough, and John Beard led a group of 16 students into the Big South Fork through the Wilderness Connections program at Jefferson Middle School. . . . . We initiated [this] wilderness-based learning program in the spring of 2005 . . . . It synthesizes the sciences, social studies and language arts, with environmental stewardship and backpacking. Students are pushed physically and mentally to overcome obstacles they may not face in everyday life. This program fosters student leadership, teambuilding, interpersonal skills, and self-confidence while offering broadening experiences and a connection to the natural world.

"We would like to thank TCWP for supporting this program. This is yet another example of the diverse programs offered through the Oak Ridge Schools that distinguishes our system from others."

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9. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR

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

- November 22, Deadline for comments on TVA's Watts Bar Plan rezoning (see ¶3C, this NL).
- November 23, Deadline for comments on proposed large increases in entrance fees for national parks (see ¶5B, this NL).
- November 29, meeting for input on proposed power line atop Pine Ridge, O.R. (see ¶7, this NL).
- December 2, Friends of Frozen Head State Park Christmas Party, Visitor Center (For more info, Lucinda Burnham, ranger1172@yahoo.com).
- December 4, Friends of Frozen Head State Park quarterly meeting, 6 p.m. at the Frozen Head State Park Visitor Center
- December 7, Hearings about expired Clean Water Permits for Kingston power plant (see ¶3D, this NL).
- December 14, TCWP Holiday Party (see ¶8A, this NL)
- January 2, ERWA Annual meeting, 6 p.m. at Plateau Electric. Hold the date
- January 13, Whites Creek Trail workday (see ¶8A, this NL)

•• RESOURCES

- An article on Eastern Forests History and Management by Joe Feeman (see Norris Watershed hike, ¶8B, this NL) is available by email. Send requests to sandra@sandrakgoss.com.
- "Nature Has Rights": Activists Call for a Legal Transformation, by Mike Ludwig, Truthout: A lawsuit filed in Denver district court by the Colorado River ecosystem asking to be recognized as a "person" is part of a growing global movement to forge a new kind of environmental law around the legal rights of nature. After all, if a corporation can be granted personhood, why not a river ecosystem that has sustained humans for thousands of years? Visit http://www.truthout.org/news/item/42565-nature-has-rights-activists-call-for-a-legal-transformation
- A well-prepared statement of REI's #OptOutside campaign, called "The Path Ahead," may be viewed at https://www.rei.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/REI-The-Path-Ahead.pdf

TCWP Newsletter 336 November, 2017

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 14 – TCWP Holiday Party
January 13 – Whites Creek Trail Workday

QUICK ACTION NEEDED!

Please see 3C and 5B. Comment deadlines are imminent!