Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

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Editor: Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Phone, 865-482-2153

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

A Member of Community Shares

13. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
3A	Stop-work order	TDEC personnel (see ¶3A)	"Thanks for issuing order! Do not back down under pressure!"
3B	Protection of East Fork Obey	TCWP	Offer help with organizing meeting
4	TVA's public lands policy	TVA Land Policy Comm.	"Ratify Land Policy as proposed in September!"
7	Roadless Rule	Sec. of Agriculture	"Immediately *enforce* Roadless Rule!"
8B	Wildlife Refuges	Your US Representative	"Wildlife Refuge System badly needs budget increases!"
8D	False "highways" in public lands	Your US Representative	"Vigorously oppose HR.6298!"
8E	Administration rewriting science	Sec. of the Interior	"Where political interference in science has occurred, re-do!"
9A	Economics of global warming	US senators and rep.	"Heed the British report!"
11A	Holiday Party/Annual Meting	TCWP	Be sure to attend
11B	Computer support	TCWP	If you have any expertise, offer assistance

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

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

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Pres. George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1414; Fax 456-2461
president@whitehouse.gov

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Governor Phil Bredesen
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-9872
615-741-2001; Fax 615-532-9711
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Dear Gov. Bredesen
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist:
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-1264
e-mail: http://frist.senate.gov/contact.cfm
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Rep. Zach Wamp:
Phone: 202-225-3271
FAX: 202-225-3494
Local: 865-576-1976
Web: www.house.gov/wamp

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

WHAT IS TCWP?

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

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Executive and Membership-Development Director: Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809; sandra@sandrakgoss.com
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1. ELECTION RETURNS SPELL GOOD NEWS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

1A. *The Houses of Congress*

One of the most important effects of a change in party control in House and Senate is the change in committee leadership. Committees not only shape legislation, but they also have the authority and the duty (sadly neglected during the past several years) to hold hearings on selected subjects. Two hearings with major environmental implications are already being planned. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) has announced that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which she will chair, plans to hold hearings on global warming. And Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), as future chair of the House Resources Committee is planning hearings on how the Bush Administration suppresses (and sometimes even alters – e.g., ¶8E, this NL) scientific findings that do not suit its agenda. Boxer and Rahall are replacing current chairs Sen. Inhofe (R-OK) and Pombo (R-CA), respectively, both extreme foes of the environment.

Overall, the changeover in committee chairs will make a huge difference to environmental issues, as illustrated by the LCV (League of Conservation Voters) scores for the current Congress (the 109th). Looking at 5 committees that handle most environmental legislation in the House (Energy & Commerce, Resources, Agriculture, Transportation & Infrastructure, Appropriations), the average LCV score of the current Republican chairmen is 5%, while it is 75% for the current Democratic Ranking Members, who are likely to take over chairmanships in the 110th Congress. For corresponding committees in the Senate (where they have slightly different names), the current Republican chairs have an average LCV score of 8%, as compared to 80% for the current Democratic Ranking Members.

Looking at the leadership of the two Houses (Leader, Whip, Conference or Caucus Chair) the current LCV averages in the House are 0% vs. 100% for Republicans and Democrats, respectively, and 9% vs. 76% in the Senate.

In each national election, the LCV Action Fund designates a Dirty Dozen, namely, incumbents with exceptionally bad environmental records. Incumbents are difficult to defeat, and, in past years, LCV has been contented when even a few of the Dirty Dozen were plucked off. This time, when the "Dozen" actually numbered 15 (including one primary race and one governorship), 11 went down to defeat, and only four won [Boren (D-OK), Pryce (R-OH), Wilson (R-NM), and Cuellar (D-TX)] (success rate, 73%). Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA), one of the Dirty Dozen, was defeated by Bob Casey, who recognizes global warming as a real, immediate threat and who supports federal action to solve the problem.

Among the others who were defeated, special mention should be made of Rep. Charles Taylor (NC-11), the main architect of the North Shore Road (Smokies) project (see ¶5A, this NL). Taylor has been the chair of the powerful House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the source of money for acquiring parks and other special lands. His aggressive opposition to federal land acquisition has kept LWCF appropriations to record low levels over the past several years.

Another very sweet defeat is that of Rep. Richard Pombo (CA-11), a particularly virulent foe of the Endangered Species Act and of protection for public lands of all kinds, whose position as powerful chair of the House Resources Committee made him particularly dangerous. The Resources Committee also has oversight over the Dept. of the Interior. Pombo's House seat had been widely considered completely safe for him; when he was toppled, a mobilization of the environmental vote was credited with his defeat.

LCV also designates Environmental Champions. This year, there were 9 (3 R, 4 D, 2 I). Only one of these was defeated – Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) (success rate, 89%). An additional 80 candidates received LCV endorsements. Of these, 63 have been elected.

There still remains the lame-duck session with its danger that outgoing ideologues may attempt to push through anti-environmental measures, perhaps as obscure amendments to must-pass appropriations bills. Environmentalist will have to keep a close watch on Congressional doings during the next few weeks.

1B. *The Tennessee Congressional delegation*

The Tennessee delegation came out of the election with no differences in party alignment, but with three new faces: two new Congressmen -- David Davis (R-1) and Stephen Cohen (D-9), and one new Senator (Bob Corker). Davis and Cohen replace Bill Jenkins and Harold Ford, who had Lifetime LCV scores of 6 and 70, respectively; and Corker replaces Bill Frist, whose Lifetime LCV score was 7. As State Senator, Cohen's environmental record was good, and he was endorsed by the Sierra Club; little is known about environmental positions of Corker and D. Davis.

1C. *Governorships*

Several of the newly elected governors support platforms that include important environmental themes. For example, during their campaigns, Ted Strickland (D-OH) and Bill Ritter (D-CO) stressed the great importance of developing renewable energy resources.

1D. State Initiatives

Votes on numerous state initiatives had environmentally important outcomes. "Takings" initiatives lost in California, Washington, and Idaho (but won in Arizona). These initiatives would have required governments to compensate owners of properties whose monetary value stood to be diminished by environmental laws and regulations (e.g., wetlands protection, Endangered Species Act). Washington joined California in passing a clean/renewable energy initiative. New Jersey voted for a dedicated source of funding for parks and natural areas. A Parks & Waters bond in California will provide $100 for restoring the endangered Klamath River.

1E. Tennessee state offices

Reelection of Gov. Phil Bredesen was not unexpected (he won with 61%), but its importance for the Tennessee environment is great in view of his excellent appointments to important departments, such as TDEC (Jim Fyke, Paul Sloan) and TDoT (Gerald Nicely). Numerous examples of his administration's environmental record (in such areas as funding for land acquisition, including Bowater lands, establishment of the Heritage Conservation Foundation with emphasis on the Cumberland Plateau, emphasis on planning and environmental concerns in TDoT) can be found in past Newsletters. For a recent example, see ¶3A, this NL).

Information concerning the State legislature comes from TCV (Tennessee Conservation Voters), which for the past 4 years has issued an annual environmental scorecard for the Tennessee Legislative Assembly (NL269 ¶3F). TCV-PAC made 19 endorsements, based on environmental records and, in the case of non-incumbents, on environmental stances and experiences -- not the likelihood of success. The result: 18 of the 19 won. See the table below.

CANDIDATE	W/L	% OF VOTE
TN Senate Endorsements	5 Wins 1 Loss	
Randy McNally	W	100
Tim Burchett	W	100
Douglas Henry*	W	66
Mary Parker	L	41
Doug Jackson*	W	100
Lowe Finney	W	50.4

TN House Endorsements	13 Wins 0 Losses	
David Hawk*	W	100
Joe McCord*	W	100
George Fraley	W	60
Mike McDonald*	W	65
Kent Coleman*	W	56
Gary Moore*	W	100
Mike Turner*	W	100
Rob Briley*	W	81
Gary Odom*	W	100
Sherry Jones*	W	71
Phillip Johnson*	W	52
Mike Kernell*	W	66
Ben West*	W	66

*Also endorsed by the Tenn. Chapter, Sierra Club, which additionally endorsed Reps. Hackworth, Hood, and Robinson-Marrero.

2. LAND-PROTECTION ACTIONS IN TENNESSEE

2A. State will be protecting Virgin Falls

In view of the ongoing land divestitures by Bowater, Inc. (e.g., NL266 ¶3A), there have been all sorts of rumors about the fate of the Bowater's Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness. According to one alarming, but pervasive, rumor, the area was being bought by a developer.

Recently, a direct question brought the following response from TDEC: "We (State of TN) are in the final stages of lease/purchase of 1,620 acres of current Bowater properties at Virgin Falls - closing in November. We are buying the lease of 1,550 acres and purchasing in fee the remaining 70 acres. The lease we are purchasing terminates in 2039.

"We have the unique opportunity to lock up 1620 acres of an 'exceptional conservation value' area in some type of state ownership. One of our main priorities during the next 30 years -- and hopefully much sooner -- is to also obtain the surface rights on those 1550 acres."

2B. New Natural Area has waterfall

Among the 6 new areas that were added to the State Natural Areas System this year (NL268 ¶2F) is a Maury County tract on the Highland Rim, purchased by the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation. Surrounding the ~80 foot-high Stillhouse Hollow Falls, the 90 acres of woodland were acquired for $130,000, and are being sold to the state for $97,000 (25% less money). The waterfall is located on an unnamed tributary to Bigby Creek, one of two major stems of the Duck River, near Highway 43. The Duck, one of the two most biologically diverse rivers in the country, unfortunately fell victim to a TVA dam, Normandy Dam (a battle TCWP lost) but escaped a second one, Columbia Dam (a battle TCWP helped to win).

Stillhouse Hollow Falls State Natural Area will be managed jointly by the Maury County Department of Parks & Recreation and the State Natural Areas Program. A winding trail leads to the waterfall.

2C. *Newly protected Skinner Mountain tract touched by East Fork Obey*

The ecologically and scenically highly significant 4,208-acre tract that was purchased in September by the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (NL269 ¶3A) is touched by the East Fork of the Obey River, which TCWP has recently undertaken to protect from threatened degradation (NL268 ¶2A and ¶2C; ¶3B, this NL).

The Cumberland Plateau, which supports one of the most important temperate hardwood forests on earth, has in recent years been increasingly savaged by large-scale logging, but the Skinner Mountain tract is still covered by a biologically diverse native hardwood forest. Because of this, it is an essential habitat for many woodland-breeding birds that require large forests, including the rare cerulean warbler. But Skinner Mountain is also rich in aquatic fauna, amphibians, fungi and – because it contains significant caves -- several species of bats, such as the Eastern big-eared, the Eastern small-footed, and, possibly, the endangered Indiana bat.

Skinner Mountain was saved just in the nick of time; it was slated for development until TNC managed to borrow money and purchase the tract for $4.7 million (some of which it hopes to recover from Forest Legacy Funds). Since 2000, TNC has purchased more than 100,000 acres on the Cumberland Plateau, including almost 10,000 acres in Fentress County, in the vicinity of Pickett (for areas with which TCWP helped, see NL259 ¶1C).

2D. *Rocky Fork near the Northern Cherokee NF needs protection*

[Based on information from Charlie Klabunde and Carl Silverstein, SAHC]

The 10,000-acre Rocky Fork, the largest single unprotected tract left in the Southern Appalachians, is threatened by development. Rocky Fork is located in Unicoi County near Erwin and Greeneville. The tract is adjacent to the Sampson Mtn. Wilderness on the north, and is contiguous with the Cherokee and Pisgah National Forests and State of Tennessee lands. It contains 1.5 miles of Appalachian Trail; another 2.5 miles of AT are located alongside it. There are more than 16 miles of blue ribbon trout streams on the property, nesting habitat for the state endangered peregrine falcon, and 2.2% of the total prime bear breeding habitat in Tennessee. The State of Tennessee has leased the property and its trout streams for public use for decades. Rocky Fork's 4,700-foot ridgelines provide the stunning scenic gateway into east Tennessee along the new I-26 corridor.

The tract, which has long been owned by a timber investment company, is now targeted for purchase for development of an exclusive gated community. Rocky Fork is within the authorized purchase boundary of the Cherokee NF. The National Forest has $2 million on hand from a previous Congressional appropriation to help purchase the property (only about 5% of its estimated purchase price), and is requesting additional funds in FY 2008. The Southern Appalachian Highland Conservancy (SAHC), along with diverse local, state, and national partners, is working creatively to secure the remarkable Rocky Fork tract for public benefit. The groups are applying to various potential funding sources, possibly including Forest Legacy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Public advocacy for LWCF funding and State of Tennessee funding would be beneficial. For further information contact Carl J. Silverstein, Executive Director of SAHC, at carl@appalachian.org. Or visit www.saverockyfork.org

2E. *A new state park for Middle Tennessee?*

[From *The Tennessean*]

In mid-October, Gov. Bredesen announced during a press conference that he would like to create a new state park somewhere in Hickman, Maury, or Williamson Counties. Because the area under consideration is also being eyed by developers, the land selection by TDEC will be handled very quietly.

2F. *Land trusts in the state*

[Contributed by Ed Clebsch]

National meeting of land trusts discusses tax benefits to donors of lands and of easements

The Land Trust Alliance, an organization of 1,700 land trusts, held its national annual Rally in Nashville, Oct. 12-15. The meetings included field trips, numerous programs on a dizzying array of subjects, speeches by several notables, and exhibits.

The talk by Governor Phil Bredesen was positive, upbeat, and challenging. (You may not know that he established the first land trust in Tennessee!) Bill McKibben --teacher, author, thinker, and environmentalist -- synthesized seemingly disparate ideas to challenge us as activists. Senator Lamar Alexander's talk demonstrated his personal dedication to land preservation.

A major theme of the meeting were the tax benefits to donors of land and of conservation easements. Following last year's threat from Congress to eliminate these altogether, the recently enacted pension bill now provides much-heralded benefits. These will, however, be available only for gifts made in 2006 and 2007, unless extended by Congress.

Further, the benefits come with a price. Land trusts all over the country must, in the next few years, become certified by one of the umbrella organizations for land trusts by working through a rigorous curriculum of standards and

practices that is being developed by, and will be judged by, the Land Trust Alliance.

Foothills Land Conservancy hosts a 'first of its kind' regional meeting

On August 24, the Land Trust Alliance and the Foothills Land Conservancy hosted a one-day workshop of 11 land trusts from eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. Two important things came out of the meeting, which was attended by 21 people: (1) The group agreed to continue to meet, at least semi-annually to discuss more substantive matters concerning land trusts in the Southern Appalachian region. (2) An *ad hoc* committee was formed to explore the formation of a Tennessee Council of Land Trusts.

The Foothills Land Conservancy(FLC) in its 20-year history has bought some 10,000 acres which it has contributed to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. It has protected an additional 6,000 acres with conservation easements, and seeks to protect additional lands with a variety of tools. Contact at 865-681-8326 or www.foothillsland.org.

[Editor's note: Other Tennessee land trusts mentioned in this NL are the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation (¶2B) and The Nature Conservancy (¶2C).]

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3. OTHER STATE NEWS

3A. *State uses stop-work order on illegal mining operation*

Among important legislation enacted by the Tennessee General Assembly this year is a bill that allows the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation to issue stop-work orders for coal surface mining operations when activities have polluted waters of the state as a result of an operator's failure or refusal to comply with permit conditions (NL267 ¶3B). This power has now been used for the first time -- a very encouraging action for those of us who in recent years have rarely seen regulatory agencies enforce environmental-protection laws.

In mid-September, the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) ordered National Coal Corp. to halt work on part of its Zeb Mountain mine and fined the company up to $173,000 for mining through two streams (tributaries of Lick Fork) without first obtaining required water-quality permits. National Coal is using cross-ridge mining on Zeb Mountain, a technique that involves mountaintop removal.

TDEC had twice rejected National Coal's permit application because it did not provide adequate detail about the proposed work, so the company went ahead *without* a permit. In the stop-work order, the company was given 30 days to submit a restoration and mitigation plan, and will have to pay the *full* fine only if it does not comply with any portion of the order. National Coal has hired a lawyer to appeal the stop-work order, or "to resolve this ... with the department." Does that mean that the company hopes to make TDEC back down?

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Commend TDEC for issuing an order designed to protect the environment and the state's waters from grievous harm, and urge them not to be intimidated into backing down. National Coal and other mining companies must be deterred from breaking the law. E-mail to any or all of the following TDEC personnel: Paul Sloan, Deputy Commissioner (paul.sloan@state.tn.us); Paul Schmierbach, Knoxville office (paul.schmierbach@state.tn.us); Alan Leiserson, TDEC 's lawyer (alan.leiserson@state.tn.us); Paul Davis, head of Water Quality (paul.estill.davis@state.tn.us).

3B. *Protecting East Fork Obey: TCWP applies for grant*

Greatly concerned about recent degradation of the East Fork Obey and the threat of further damages to this very scenic river (NL268 ¶2B), TCWP is planning to convene a meeting of all groups and persons with an interest in the area (NL268 ¶2C) in order to stimulate actions designed to protect it. To this end, we have submitted a grant application to the Southeastern Rivers and Streams Support Fund of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The East Fork, which was once badly degraded by mine pollution, experienced a remarkable recovery in water quality following remediation by OSM. More recently, however, inappropriate developments, including clearing of lots and road construction have again seriously degraded water quality. The river supplies about 30% of the waters of Dale Hollow Lake, one of the cleanest in the country.

TCWP is motivated by the fact that the East Fork Obey and its surrounding area currently have no specific advocate(s) and are under siege. We want to heighten area residents' awareness of the development threats to their watershed, and to empower them with adequate information to be able to interact successfully with appropriate agencies, particularly those that license the potential water-degradation sources. To this end, we propose to identify a list of potentially interested parties and convene them in a summit meeting at which problems can be identified and possible remedies discussed. Following the meeting, we will continue to communicate with the attendees. The grant for which we have applied will cover the costs of the meeting and staff time.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you can help with any part of our effort to organize a meeting, or can attend one, contact Sandra Goss (865- 522-3809; or

sandra@sandrakgoss.com); or Frank Hensley (865-483-0849).

3C. *The state's "Exceptional Waters"*

High-quality waters in Tennessee have been classified Tier II and given considerable water-quality protection. (Tier III are Outstanding National Resource Waters, which include the Obed and Big South Fork.) Recently, a Tier-II stream, Caney Fork Creek in Sumner County, has been threatened by a dam. There are numerous excellent reasons for opposing this water-supply project, for which feasible alternatives exist. The major objection is that it would set a very bad precedent for targeting Tier-II waters for harmful developments. TCWP has submitted comments for the record, strongly opposing the dam.

As part of the state's Triennial Review of Water Policy, the Division of Water Pollution Control has been attempting to develop criteria for designation of "Exceptional Tennessee Waters (ETWs)," formerly classified as "Tier II" waters. This regulation is not yet final and is still in draft form. TCWP's executive director Sandra Goss is among a group convened in an attempt to arrive at consensus. Among criteria so far developed are: (a) state scenic rivers or national wild & scenic rivers, (b) waters with areas designated as Lands Unsuitable for Mining (under SMCRA) if the reason for designation is water concerns, (c) waters with naturally reproducing trout, (d) waters with exceptional biological diversity as evidenced by certain defined criteria, (e) waters within state or national parks, wildlife refuges or management areas, forest wilderness areas, or natural areas.

Previous ONRW designations will trump any decisions on ETWs. Thus, the Obed remains designated an ONRW (Tier III).

3D. *Staff changes at Tennessee environmental groups*

TEC welcomes new Executive Director

In October, John McFadden became part-time Executive Director of the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC), and he will transition to full-time at the start of 2007. John began his conservation career with TEC in 1989 as the Clean Water Project Coordinator. Subsequently, he created what many know as the Duck River Opportunities Project, a proactive, cooperative effort to begin restoration work in parts of one of the most biologically diverse river systems in the world. He will continue to work with and manage the Duck River Opportunities Project in partnership with the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association.

John has worked in the conservation field ever since graduating from Tennessee Technological University 18 years ago. His experience includes watershed planning and modeling, river restoration, permit negotiations, development and project management. He has been recognized by federal and state court systems as an expert on water quality matters and is often quoted in the media. He will continue working with the Harpeth River Watershed Association and the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association as Director of Science and Restoration programs.

TCV is looking for executive director. Fund-raising party coming soon. Tennessee Conservation Voters (of which TCWP is a member), the political arm of the Tennessee Conservation movement (see, e.g., ¶1E, this NL), is in process of filling the important position of Executive Director. For specifics, see ¶12 ("Job Opportunities").

TCV has scheduled a major fund-raising event for February 9, 2007, at which our "legislative friends" will be honored. The party, at the Travelers Rest in Nashville, will provide a chance to mingle with legislators while enjoying great food, drink, and music. There will also be live and silent auctions. For ticket information, call 615-269-9090, or e-mail tcved@bellsouth.net.

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4. TVA's DRAFT LAND POLICY SHOULD BE RATIFIED AS PROPOSED

During the comment period that followed the August 16 hearing (NL269 ¶5A), the TVA Board's Community Relations Committee received about 900 additional comments (and that was just the first batch, see below), the vast majority of which urged TVA to leave public lands in public hands. Subsequently, the Committee issued a well-thought-out document recommending that it be "... TVA's policy to preserve the lands remaining under its control in public ownership except in those rare instances where the benefits to the public will be so significant that transferring lands from TVA control to private ownership or another public entity is justified." Residential and retail [or other non-industrial commercial] uses are specifically restricted (see below). As regards industrial uses, reservoir lands may be disposed of only if they have been designated for such purposes in a current reservoir land management plan. Further, "Industrial purposes are considered manufacturing businesses which require water access (for navigation or water supply)."

This recommended policy was apparently a draft proposal that the committee might still modify before submitting it to the full 9-member TVA Board for acceptance (or rejection). November 3 was the deadline for public comments on the Committee's proposed policy. TCWP submitted an organizational comment, and many members sent individual ones in support of the proposal. Among the several points made were the following.

(a) Over the decades, TVA has acquired ~1,300,000 acres with taxpayer dollars (and, in some cases, with the use of eminent domain) for the benefit of the people of the United States. Of this total area, 470,000 acres were inundated, creating highly valuable shorelands that belong to us all and that must be used for the *public* good of the people – just as it was the people who gave up their lands to create the shores. To sell shorelands to interests whose primary purpose is to make a profit constitutes a perversion of TVA's original objectives and a betrayal of the people who were asked to sacrifice for the *public* good. It is therefore particularly significant that the Committee recommends that "TVA shall not dispose of reservoir properties for residential [or for retail or other non-industrial commercial] use.

(b) Land in its natural state is a rapidly shrinking resource in our part of the country, since it is being destroyed or converted, even as the population grows. It is highly valued by the public for healthful outdoor recreation or for pursuits such as bird watching, and its accessibility greatly contributes to the quality of life, and thus to the decision of employers to locate in this region. Accessible natural lands thus enhance the economic wellbeing of the Valley. The sale of any of TVA's remaining 293,000 acres of public lands for private residential use, or for retail or other non-industrial commercial use, would significantly diminish the availability of these valuable natural lands.

Mayors and Chambers of Commerce have been crying foul and passing resolutions opposing the draft TVA Land Policy. About 10 days before the deadline, the Oak Ridge City Council agreed to send TVA a letter in opposition. It may be noted that, prior to sending this letter, the City Council made no attempt to find out whether it was in fact representing its citizens.

The Land Policy committee's chair, Susan Williams, has stated that final recommendation will be offered for a TVA board vote on Nov. 30. By November 3, the committee had received some 2,900 comments, mostly from citizens who like the policy, but also from chambers of commerce who want it altered, and from some who want more time. She said she had not ruled out amending the plan if the committee is convinced that "there is something out there that we have missed."

Without a doubt, lobbyists from various development interests will be far from inactive during the interval between the comment deadline and the Board meeting. Therefore, we recommend continuing input from ordinary citizens.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you have not already contacted the TVA Land Policy Committee, send the message that public lands must be kept in public hands. Call them (toll-free) at 888-882-7675, or e-mail to landpolicyhearing@tva.gov.

5. SMOKIES UPDATES

[Jimmy Groton represented TCWP at the November 4 meeting of the Great Smoky Mountains Coalition. ¶5B and ¶5C, below, are based on his reports.]

5A. *Election results are good news for opponents of the N. Shore Road*

Most important was the defeat of Congressman Charles Taylor, who had for years led the effort to get the North Shore Road built, and who had much power as chair of the House Interior Appropriation Subcommittee. Late in 2000, Taylor quietly attached $16 million for the Road to a must-pass appropriations bill (NL236 ¶3A), and it is this money that has, ever since, been funding work on an Environmental Impact Statement (e.g., see NL250 ¶5A, and ¶5C below). Taylor was defeated by Heath Shuler, a staunch opponent of the road, who, during his campaign, had cited the project's half-billion dollar cost as a prime example of the fiscal irresponsibility of the present Congress.

Even at lower levels of government, the election results boded well for getting a monetary settlement for Swain County in lieu of he road. In the NC state legislature, both the senator and the representative elected from the area are pro-settlement; and on the Swain County Commission, the split is 3 (including the chairman) to 2 in favor of monetary settlement.

5B. *North Shore Road EIS is delayed*

As reported in our last Newsletter (NL269, ¶4A), personnel changes at the highest levels (Secretary of the Interior and Director of the National Park Service) have slowed release of the Final EIS, which was originally scheduled for October. Even if a decision were made today, it would be 3-4 months before the FEIS and Record of Decision would be released, due to production time. After the ROD is issued, there is a mandatory waiting period of at least 30 days before any action can take place. It is thus unlikely that the FEIS will be released until sometime in 2007.

Rumors have been circulating about revisions to construction-cost estimates for the North Shore Road project. Apparently Heath Shuler (who defeated Charles Taylor, ¶5A, above) had made statements during campaign appearances that a reevaluation of costs was underway and that estimates were now about $150M higher than estimates published in the draft EIS. Superintendent Ditmanson confirmed that an independent construction cost review is underway and that it is not being conducted by Arcadis, the firm that prepared the DEIS. Of the original $16M set aside for the project evaluation (¶5A, above), about $8-9 M has been spent to date.

5C. *Fate of the Elkmont enclave*

The Draft EIS on the Elkmont enclave was completed in March of this year. Alternative C, the NPS's preferred alternative, would retain the Appalachian Clubhouse (to be rehabilitated for day-use opportunities under special use permit) and 16 historic buildings in its immediate adjacent area, and would create 160 new parking spaces (NL266 ¶4C). TCWP and several other groups supported Alternative A, under which no buildings would remain.

The consulting parties met recently to discuss comments on the DEIS. Apparently little progress was made towards resolving comments on DEIS issues and on reaching a final decision. The Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office and the National Trust for Historic Preservation kept the discussion focused on the process rather than on the outcome of the process and a final solution to relevant issues. Another meeting is planned soon with TN SHPO and NTHP to resolve comments on the DEIS.

NPS's Preferred Alternative C as described in the DEIS would cost about $5M. About half of that money is for rehabilitation and interpretive exhibits. That money can come from groups like the Friends of the Smokies and NTHP. The remainder includes line-item construction projects and ~$1M for removal of structures not selected for restoration and restoration of remaining structures. Other infrastructure costs include construction of new public restroom facilities for visitors.

Demolition of the former Wonderland Hotel is underway. Significant architectural elements are being salvaged ahead of the demolition activities and placed in storage in Oak Ridge. Once demolition is complete the site will be stabilized and secured with fencing that will remain in place until a final decision is made on the EIS.

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6. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

6A. *New Obed organization receives water-quality grant*

[Contributed by Louise Gorenflo]

The Obed Watershed Community Association (OWCA) was organized last year in Crossville as a nonprofit organization to promote and protect the watersheds of the Obed River and its major tributaries, Clear Creek and Daddys Creek. These watersheds lie on the Cumberland Plateau within Cumberland County (and within the bigger Emory River Watershed). Starting the year with 44 members, OWCA has already grown to 104.

In its first full year, OWCA applied for a grant, *and got it!* The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has awarded the OWCA a Federal Clean Water Act Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning grant for its "Obed Watershed Stream Restoration Project: Phase 1 – Watershed Planning and Capacity Development."

A major focus of OWCA has been to develop a watershed network of community members, elected officials, agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and universities. Starting in July 2007, the project will organize a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consisting of agency partners. OWCA will conduct stakeholder listening sessions and then develop watershed councils in the watersheds of One Mile Creek, Long Branch, and Little Obed [all of them 303(d)-listed streams], followed by organization of a citizen water-quality monitoring team in each of those watersheds. At the end of the grant period, the TAC and watershed councils will have developed stream-restoration plans that address the recommendations described in the EPA-approved TMDL.

The watersheds of the Obed River and its tributaries drain most of the county, and eventually drain into the Emory River, part of the Tennessee River Basin. Compared to watersheds in some other regions in the state, this one still supports a naturally diverse ecosystem; but development activities are putting great stress on the watershed's capacities. The community has, however, resisted land-use planning and management that could alleviate this stress.

OWCA will address the need to restore an impaired watershed, and will cultivate the importance of protecting the watershed in order to protect the community. These watershed management projects will be the first community efforts in our county. Everyone will be on a steep learning curve, but through the expertise and resources of our partners, Cumberland County can learn to implement best management practices to protect its streams and natural communities.

Contact OWCA for more information at 931-484-2633, or e-mail its executive director, Louise Gorenflo at lgorenflo@gmail.com

6B. *Big South Fork NRRA participates in developing comment tool*

[Contributed by Phyllis Trabold, Community Planner, BSFNRRA]

The BSFNRRA recently participated in developing a public interaction tool. Citizen participation is the cornerstone of NPS park planning. The Park Service's new PEPC (Planning Environment and Public Comment) system facilitates public interaction in planning-compliance projects. PEPC allows the public to check dates for NPS meetings and, more important, to comment by e-mail on any open NPS project servicewide.

Comments submitted through PEPC can be accessed by all NPS staff assigned to a project: they become a permanent part of the administrative record, and can be electronically sorted.

PEPC's "mailbox" can handle an unlimited number of public comments as opposed to standard e-mail mailboxes. To find meetings, or to comment on planning projects at Big South Fork NRRA, go to
http://parkplanning.nps.gov/BISO
For the NPS-wide PEPC webpage use the same address but omit "/BISO".

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7. GREAT NEWS: THE ROADLESS RULE IS REINSTATED!

The Roadless Areas Conservation Rule was developed with unprecedented public support during the last 3 years of the Clinton Administration, and was finally promulgated in January of 2001. It protected from road-construction and most logging the last remaining 58.5 million acres of unroaded and pristine areas in our national forests (which already contain 386,000 miles of road). It was the most widely supported rule in federal rule-making history (600 public hearings and 1.6 million public comments). But almost from the moment the Bush Administration came into office, they used every possible avenue to weaken or scuttle the Rule. Finally, in 2005, they repealed the rule altogether, putting in its place an uncertain state-by-state procedure that required governors to submit petitions (which might or might not be accepted by the US Forest Service, USFS) if they wanted national-forest lands within their state protected (NL257 ¶1).

But on September 19, a wonderful thing happened. Judge Elizabeth LaPorte of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco sided with 20 conservation groups and with the attorneys general of 4 states (CA, OR, WA, NM; MT and ME filed an amicus curiae brief), finding that the Administration had failed to comply with basic legal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act. The court thus reinstated the Rule, saying: "The State Petitions Rule is set aside and the Roadless Rule ... is reinstated. Defendants [i.e., the USFS, Dept of Agriculture] are enjoined from taking any further action contrary to the Roadless Rule without undertaking environmental analysis consistent with this opinion."

While the Roadless Rule has now been restored in all national forests of the lower 48 states, it does not include any of the 9.3 million acres of roadless areas in Alaska's Tongass National Forest. That is because the Bush Administration had in 2003 temporarily exempted the Tongass through settlement of Alaska's lawsuit challenging the Rule. Subsequent court rulings, however, make it, questionable whether the Tongass exemption remains legally viable.

Undoubtedly, the Bush Administration, with its allies in the timber, oil and gas industries and the motorized recreation lobby will now go to court to fight the reinstatement of the Roadless Rule. Additionally, they will fail to enforce the Rule. Finally, they will attempt to undermine it administratively behind the scenes because it is a regulation, rather than a law. We must keep alert and support all efforts to thwart these Administration tactics. Conservationists will be pushing for a bill that would make the Roadless Rule a federal statute. We have to be ready to support such a bill vigorously.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Agriculture Secretary Michael Johanns (1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250) and demand that he support protection for our national forests by immediately enforcing the Roadless Rule. The moment a road is cut, the area is precluded from protection under the Wilderness Act or under the Roadless Rule. Old-growth forests are particularly at risk; building roads within them threatens natural treasures that cannot be replaced in centuries.

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8. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES:

8A. *Victory for Western Arctic Reserve*

The 23-million acre National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA), west of Prudhoe Bay, was set aside in the 1920s as an emergency source of oil for the Navy, and was later transferred to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM recently opened for leasing 100% of the internationally significant Teshekpuk Lake Special Area in NPRA's northeast. Until then, "Special Area" designation (conferred in 1977 by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus) had assured that wildlife, subsistence, and cultural values would receive maximum protection under any development scenarios. (The area is one of the most sensitive arctic wetland complexes in the Northern Hemisphere.) But BLM, ignoring the designation, went ahead with its plan for a lease sale on September 27, despite ~300,000 comments received in opposition.

Two days before the scheduled sale, the U.S. District Court of Alaska prohibited BLM from leasing 400,000+ acres around Teshekpuk Lake. The court found that the Interior Department had failed to consider cumulative environmental impacts of oil and gas drilling on this sensitive ecosystem.

8B. *Cutbacks seriously threaten Wildlife Refuges in Southeast*

[Information from the Wilderness Society]

The 96 million acre National Wildlife Refuge System, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has persistently been under-

funded and has a crippling $3.1 billion budget backlog. In late October, USDI issued its "Workforce Management Plan" for the FWS's Southeast Region. This Plan cuts personnel and programs to an extent that will effectively mothball a dozens of the 128 national wildlife refuges in the Southeast Region. Currently these refuges support more visitors than those in any other region: more than 11 million visitors annually.

Among units affected is Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge (FL), established over a century ago by President Theodore Roosevelt as the Nation's first Refuge. Another is Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (GA), where personnel cuts will result in a decline of 50,000 visits annually. Without sufficient funding, FWS cannot adequately manage and restore wildlife habitat, safely maintain facilities, and provide quality education and outdoor recreation programs for millions of visitors.

Nationally, the system includes 545 refuges, occupying a total of 96 million acres. There is at least one refuge in every state and U.S. territory and one within an hour's drive of almost every major U.S. city. National wildlife refuges enjoy the broad public support of conservation groups, sportsmen's groups, recreationists, and families and schools that use the refuges as living classrooms. With over 40 million visitors annually, refuges help to return nearly $1.5 billion dollars to the national economy each year and create over 24,000 jobs. So far, the mothballing of refuges has affected the NE and SE Regions, but without a dramatic new commitment of funding for the FWS, the crisis will ripple throughout the entire National Wildlife Refuge System.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your Congressman (contact information on p.2) that the U.S Wildlife Refuge System *badly* needs an increase in its operations and maintenance budgets.

8C. *US Forest Service's scheme to circumvent NEPA*

[Information from Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, FSEEE]

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has done more to protect the environment than almost any other law. For example, it was NEPA, rather than the Endangered Species Act (as most people think), that limited the logging of 90% of the Pacific Northwest forests. The USFS was sued under NEPA, because its Northwest Forest Plan had omitted key scientific information about threats to the spotted owl. This Forest Plan (Oregon, Washington, northern California) is a particularly important one because the 17 national forests covered by it contain over half the Service's standing saw-timber.

Truth-telling has unwanted consequences for the Bush Administration's pro-logging policies, and so the Forest Service has supported various attempts to kill or weaken NEPA. Thus far, these have not succeeded, so the Administration is trying another approach: exempt Forest Service Plans from NEPA. This strategy is being masterminded by Mark Rey, Undersecretary of Agriculture, who, in his former life was the timber industry's leading strategist battling against protection of ancient forests.

The strategy for making the plans exempt from NEPA is to make them so meaningless that they make no decisions – no decisions about which to tell the truth. Mark Rey's new rules make forest plans completely discretionary, without any enforceable requirements. His plans have no Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), and therefore don't have to tell the truth about what will happen to the environment. The plans don't tell you what the USFS is going to do (e.g., graze cattle, cut trees, etc.)

Important lawsuits on these issue are being brought by FSEEE, which needs your support (P.O. Box 11615, Eugene, OR 97440, 541-484-2692; www.fseee.org).

8D. *Unneeded road proliferation threatens public lands*

[Information from the Wilderness Society]

Can you believe that a bill passed 140 years ago could threaten our public lands? A loophole in the 1866 Mining Law (Revised Statute 2477) is being used as a means for authorizing roads to be built on public lands where they are not needed and would harm other values. A bill before the House, HR.6298, would allow the bulldozing and paving of thousands of miles of new roads through federal lands all across the West, and to open pristine areas to development and to off-road vehicle use. It would do so by turning over a huge number of old rights-of-way claims on federal lands to state and local governments. Federal lands affected include national parks, wildlife refuges, national monuments, wilderness areas, and other sensitive areas.

Essentially any line that has ever appeared on any map during the past two centuries (a cow trail, old mining track, dirt footpath, carriage way, off-road vehicle route, or even a streambed) could be considered to be a "highway." HR.6298 would, furthermore, waive the environmental review and public involvement requirements of NEPA, taking away the public's right to have a voice in the decisions affecting our public lands.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Congressman (contact information on p.2) to vigorously oppose HR.6298.

8E. *Administration rewriting science*

[Information from Union of Concerned Scientists, UCS, and *Washington Post*]

The *Washington Post* reported on October 30 that a high-ranking Dept. of the Interior official (Julie MacDonald, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks) has, on at least 6 occasions in the past three years, dismissed and/or disparaged findings by the scientific staff if they recommended Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection for imperiled animals or plants. MacDonald is a civil engineer with no biological training.

Under this President Bush, the listing of species has been at an all-time low, averaging about 10 per year. Under Presidents Clinton and George H. W. Bush, it was 64 and 59 per year, respectively. Since passage of the ESA in 1973, altogether 1,337 domestic species have been identified as threatened or endangered; of these, 1,311 remain on the list.

The agency's inspector general is looking into allegations that Ms. MacDonald's action have been taken at the request of industries or landowners. She has overruled scientists' findings that had a bearing on designating critical habitats for imperiled species, and she has actually mocked rank-and-file employees' recommendations. The ESA requires the Fish & Wildlife Service to use the best available science when making decisions on the listing of species.

Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), who will chair the House Resources Committee in the Democratic House of Representatives, has indicated that he will hold oversight hearings on this issue. That's a good example of the importance of this election outcome for the environment!

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Interior Secretary Kempthorne (849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240) to withdraw decisions on species where political interference in science has occurred, and to allow a new scientific review to take place. The Fish & Wildlife Service needs more resources, too! (see also ¶8B, this NL).

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9. GLOBAL WARMING

9A. *USA should heed British report on the economics of global warming*

[Information from *The New Yorker* of Nov. 14, and *The New York Times* of Nov. 3]ß

At the end of October, Britain's Government Economic Service issued a 600-page report that should set a new benchmark for policy discussions concerning global warming. The report's author is Sir Nicholas Stern, whose credentials include, among other things, past service as the World Bank's Chief Economist. Unless greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are, without further delay, controlled globally, says the report, the world faces the risk of "major disruptions to economic and social activity, later in this century and in the next, on a scale similar to those associated with the great wars and the economic depression of the first half of the 20th century."

The problem is that the prices people pay for fuel, electric power, and other energy products do not reflect their true costs, including the impacts of GHGs. "When people do not pay for the consequences of their actions, we have market failure. This is the greatest market failure the world has seen."

All of a number of measures (e.g., taxes, regulations, compulsory voucher schemes) are needed to force payment for the negative effects of energy use. Currently, less than 25% of global capacity come from non-carbon sources, but by 2050 this proportion will have to be over 60%. Taking strong action to reduce emissions "must be viewed as an investment." If these investments are made wisely, "the costs will be manageable, and there will be a wide range of opportunities for growth and development along the way." Stabilizing GHG emissions by the year 2050 at slightly above current levels will cost about 1% of the annual global gross domestic product; but that's small compared to the cost of doing nothing, which is 5-20% of annual world GDP.

Previous studies have underestimated the cost of global warming because they have not accounted for collateral effects, such as forced migrations, spread of vector-born diseases (malaria, dengue fever, etc.), and the instability triggered by economic suffering of poor countries.

British government leaders have pledged to cut Britain's carbon emissions by 60% over the next 4 decades, and this agenda is also endorsed by the opposition Conservative Party. The government has engaged Al Gore, Jr. to advise them on environmental policy (Gore has agreed to be an unpaid advisor).

But the problem can't be seriously tackled without participation by the United States, which leads the world in GHG emissions. As long as the Bush Administration is in control, the outlook is pretty hopeless because there is a total unwillingness to consider measures that would force payment for the negative effects of energy use. Additionally, Washington currently spends only $3 billion a year for all energy research and development (compared with $75 billion on military research), with only a fraction of this ($416 million, last year) spent on climate-friendly, renewable technologies. Nor is the Administration providing any tangible encouragement to the private sector to invest in cleaner energy. Unless a significant cost is attached to carbon emissions, private capital is not likely to emerge in sufficient quantity to make a real difference.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your members of Congress (p.2) that global warming will have disastrous consequences, and that solutions to global warming also serve to strengthen our national security, bolster our economy, and create good jobs.

9B. *Illinois's global warming initiative*

On October 5, Gov. Blagojevich signed an executive order to create the Illinois Climate Change Advisory Group, which will consider the full range of policies and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the state. He also announced that Illinois will become the second state (New Mexico was the first) to join the Chicago Climate Exchange, whereby a state makes a legally binding commitment to reduce GHG emissions from state government operations.

Illinois state government officials recently met with their California counterparts to discuss GHG-reduction strategies. California recently took the lead among states in fighting global warming (NL269 ¶7A). Potential partnerships with other states that are actively pursuing climate-change strategies are also being explored by Illinois.

9C. *Global warming and the faith community*

[From SACE's October E-newsletter]

Stewardship and creation care have become a hot issue among the faith community nationally and are finding new traction in Tennessee. Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light (TN-IPL) is bringing the message to our state.

In October, TN-IPL hosted a number of events throughout the state. They gave free showings of Al Gore's movie, *An Inconvenient Truth* at 42 churches and synagogues to educate congregations about the urgent need for action on global warming. TN-IPL sponsored Rev. Sally Bingham, national Interfaith Power and Light co-founder and faith leader, to help inspire people of faith at events in Chattanooga and Knoxville. And on October 28, TN-IPL called people of faith to action to attend a prayer vigil outside of the final Corker/Ford debate in Nashville to show their concern about the effects global warming will have on God's creation.

"Caring for creation means that we must reduce the use of fossil fuels to power our homes and congregations, and encourage the use of clean, renewable sources," stated Rev. Doug Hunt, clergy representative for TN-IPL.

9D. *New film on global warming*

A new documentary, *"The Great Warming,"* has now opened in theaters around the country, including Downtown West, in Knoxville. (For other locations, visit http://www.thegreatwarming.com <http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=104669552&u=996519>). Filmed in eight countries on four continents, endorsed by dozens of the world's leading scientists, this movie is a factually accurate, visually stunning and wide-ranging production. Scorching summer days aren't the only noticeable result of global warming. Rainfall patterns are shifting -- some areas are getting wetter, others drier -- and higher temperatures are causing mountain snow pack to melt earlier in the year. Global warming compounds water-scarcity problems caused by population growth, urban sprawl, and intensive agriculture use -- necessitating creative thinking for river-friendly solutions.

Although the film has a little less science than Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*, it shares heartfelt stories from everyday people of how climate change is already affecting their lives. It also shows how the struggle to halt global warming has brought people together, transcending the lines of politics and faith. The film also talks about solutions -- some a little far out, but hopeful. *"The Great Warming"* should make people speak out on this issues.

Visit the website http://www.thegreatwarming.com and click on "Join the Call to Action." You'll be directed to links where you can join many American leaders in signing a United Statement, download information, send for free climate change booklets from NOAA, etc. Take a look at the press version of the Call to Action statement. Also note that every person who goes to see the film is eligible for a free home energy review, which is worth $250, courtesy of the film's sponsor Krystal Planet http://www.krystal-planet.com.

10. OAK RIDGE NEWS

10A. *North Ridge Trail has new signs*

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

This month the North Ridge Trail is getting a new look – and hopefully more looks - at all its major access points! The new trailhead signs are the result of a productive partnership between TCWP, the City of Oak Ridge, and UT-Battelle, LLC. Funds for fabrication were donated several years ago by several generous TCWP members and by a most-appreciated grant in 2005 from UT-Battelle. The City has provided resources to erect the signs. The project was launched with the vision of previous Trail Steward Tom Thomas and has been completed through the diligence of the current Trail Steward, Susan Donnelly. Special thanks also go to Jon Hetrick, City of Oak Ridge Parks Maintenance Crew Chief.

The signs will enhance planning and safety for users, attract additional users by increasing trail visibility, promote respect by users, discourage illegal uses (bicycles, horses, ATVs, and litter), and promote the Trail's esteemed dual designations as National and State Recreation Trail. TCWP volunteers assist the City in maintaining the trail. Look for a work day before springtime! Meanwhile, volunteers are encouraged to contact Susan at 865-482-7232.

10B. *DOE proposes ecological enhancement to remediate con-contaminated pond*

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Among the environmental remediation projects at the Department of Energy's East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP, formerly K-25) are four involving ponds. Recently DOE made available for public comment their analysis of cleanup options to mitigate risk to human health and the environment from these PCB-contaminated ponds. The analysis focused on the "P1" Pond, which currently presents "unacceptable" human and ecological risks, primarily from ingestion of fish. The evaluation presented five alternatives for mitigating the risk, and the alternatives range in cost ($0 to $27.1 million), effectiveness, and secondary impacts.

TCWP reviewed the evaluation and sent comments to DOE in support of the two alternatives that included innovative "ecological enhancement." One of these is the least expensive (apart from "No Action"). In lieu of the traditional procedures of draining, dredging, and filling, these alternatives would maintain or enhance the natural resource value, in addition to interrupting exposure pathways that lead to human and/or ecological receptors. They would enhance wetland habitat, promote native species, and remove or limit non-native species. Actions would include removing undesirable fish (that mobilize/accumulate contaminants and consume aquatic vegetation), planting aquatic and shoreline vegetation, enhancing water clarity for plant growth, reducing riparian nutrient loading, and restoring desirable fish. We commend DOE for consideration of this innovative approach that promises effective risk mitigation, as well as an ecologically healthy and aesthetically appealing product.

11. TCWP NEWS

11A. *Upcoming activities*

[For additional information on any of the listed events, contact Sandra at 865-522-3809, or at sandra@sandrakgoss.com

Volunteers needed for work session at OR Cedar Barren – Nov 18

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Once common in east Tennessee, the cedar barren habitat and the prairie plants it supports have become rare. Located adjacent to Jefferson Middle School, the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren has long served as a public and educational resource. This barren, saved from development by TCWP, has been protected by designation as a state natural area and an 18-year partnership between the state, the City of Oak Ridge, and TCWP.

Volunteers are needed for a work session on Saturday, Nov. 18, to remove encroaching and shade-producing plants that threaten the barren's rare species. Volunteer steward and TCWP Board member Tim Bigelow appeals for student and adult volunteers to assist with this biannual task. Volunteers are asked to meet at the southwest parking lot of Jefferson Middle School at 9 a.m., wear sturdy shoes, and bring gloves, water, and loppers, although some tools will be available. The work session will conclude at noon. For more information, contact Tim (865-607-6781 or bigelowt2@mindspring.com).

Don't miss November 30, Annual Meeting/Holiday Party, featuring Don Williams

You should have received an announcement of our upcoming Holiday Party/Annual Meeting, scheduled for 6:30, Thursday, November 30 at the Wildcat Den (Oak Ridge Turnpike at traffic light #11). As is our custom for annual holiday parties, bring an hors d'oeuvre or a dessert to share. TCWP will provide beverages. Around 8:00, we'll interrupt the socializing to conduct a brief business meeting. After that, we'll have the pleasure of hearing from Don Williams, noted columnist for the *News Sentinel*. Be sure to join us for this event!

11B. *TCWP needs computer support*

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Computers are essential to many phases of TCWP's work. Occasionally, we need computer support - sometimes related to hardware and sometimes to software, and sometimes we're not sure what we need! If you have some potentially relevant computer expertise (Mac or PC) and are willing to field questions and/or help us solve our occasional problems, please contact Sandra Goss at 865-522-3809 or sandra@sandrakgoss.com. We would be *most* grateful!

11C. *Thanks, Newsletter volunteers!*

The following volunteers assembled NL269 for mailing: Jean Bangham, Sandra Goss, Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, Dick Raridon, Helen and Ken Warren. As always, Francis Perey put the NL up on our web site. Thank you all!

11D. *Report of recent activities*

[Contributed by Sandra K. Goss and Jimmy Groton]

National Public Lands Day, 9/30/06: Worthington Cemetery

National Public Lands Day signaled the annual TCWP clean-up effort at Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area near Elza Gate, East Oak Ridge. Twenty people helped to pull up privet, mimosa, bush honeysuckle multiflora rose, and several other exotic, invasive pest plants from this TVA Small Wild Area and to replace them with native plants. Partners this year included TVA and two native-plant nurseries in our area: Native Gardens in Greenback and Sunlight Gardens in Norris. These nurseries provided a variety of native plants that we planted around the wetland areas and the cedar barren. They included mistflower, gray goldenrod, purple aster, great blue lobelia, cardinal flower, marsh mallow, swamp rose, and giant tickseed. Both the ground conditions and the weather were much more favorable this year than last, when we were in the midst of a drought and had to tackle rock-hard soil.

Birthday party, 9/30/06

In the afternoon of the day of our Worthington Cemetery work session, approximately 20 people met for our 40th birthday party. It was held in and around a picnic shelter at Clark Center Park, and much enjoyed by families.

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12. JOB OPENINGS; CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• JOB OPPENINGS

Executive Director for Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV).

TCV, a statewide, non-partisan organization committed to environmental advocacy and focused on influencing state environmental policy, is seeking a dynamic leader to serve as Executive Director. This position requires dedication to environmental values, some knowledge of the Tennessee political process, and powerful communication skills. Fundraising and grant-writing experience and skills are also necessary. In addition, the ideal candidate will be self-motivated with excellent management and organizational skills and experience. Application deadline, Dec. 7, 2006. Interviews will be conducted in the Nashville area Jan. 23-30, 2007. Send resume, references, writing samples, and a one-page cover letter to:

Michelle Haynes, Pres., TCV
2021 21st Avenue, South, #431
Nashville, TN 37212.
Attention: Janet Matthews

Executive Director for the Stop I-3 Coalition.

The Stop I-3 Coalition (http://www.stopi3.org) is a multi-state, non-profit grassroots organization opposed to the concept and potential construction of an interstate corridor connecting Savannah, Georgia to Knoxville, Tennessee (and then to Oak Ridge), or any other similar corridor through the Southern Appalachian mountains. For its Executive Director position, the Coalition seeks an experienced, strategic thinking self-starter with a demonstrated ability to achieve results as the administrative leader of all areas of the organization. Submit resume and cover letter to: Greg Kidd, chairman, Stop I-3 Coalition, One Page Avenue, Suite 109, Asheville, NC 28801. Or email your application to: gkidd@npca.org.

•• EVENTS CALENDAR

(For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, sandra@sandrakgoss.com)

- Nov. 18, Oak Ridge Cedar Barren work session (¶11A, this NL).
- Nov. 28-30, Gatlinburg, Southern Appalachian Man And the Biosphere (SAMAB), 17th Annual Conference, featuring invasive exotics, water, bio-fuels, etc. (865-974-5912; www.samab.org).
- Nov. 30, TCWP Holiday Party, Annual Meeting, and talk by Don Williams (¶11A, this NL).
- Dec. 5, Knoxville, "Eat Ice Cream for Community Shares." Between 5 and 8 p.m., come to Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream in Western Plaza, Bearden/Sequoyah Hills area, and buy an ice cream cone. Ben & Jerry's will donate $1 from each cone to Community Shares.

•• RESOURCES

- The *National Forest Planning Resource Guide* is a publication by the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition (SAFC) prepared by Hugh Irwin and summer intern Audrey Beres. Intended as a tool for dealing with Forest Plan revision issues, it will be posted on SAFC'S web site, www.safc.org. Though examples are drawn from Southern Appalachian forests, the guide is relevant to planning on any of the national forest system. SAFC welcomes feedback on use of the guide (hugh@safc.org).
- *Managing your Woodlands: A Guide for Southern Appalachian Landowners* has been published in its second edition by Appalachian Voices. This guide for small landholders features sustainable forestry tips designed to protect the health and

long-term productivity of woodlands and to aid water conservation. The FREE handbook comes with a companion DVD. Contact Caitlin Nelis at avforestprogram@bellsouth.net, or 828-262-1500.

- *Cooperating Across Boundaries: Partnerships to Conserve Open Space in Rural America,* is a recent Forest Service publication that offers practical solutions and inspiration for meeting the challenges of open space conservation in the face of accelerating rural growth. It shows how the loss of open space threatens the sustainability of our nation's forests and grasslands and states that close to 6,000 acres of open space are lost each *day* across the United States. As the rate of productive farm, ßΩΩthe challenges for private and federal land managers will also rise. The publication can be found at http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/four-threats/documents/cooperatingacrossboundaries.pdf.
- The Oak Ridge National Laboratory has developed native-plant landscaping around the pond area. If your wildflower or water gardens have any extras that you could contribute (do NOT dig from the wild!), contact Pat Parr, 576-8123, to discuss your possible contribution. Native wildflowers should be adapted to sun and dry conditions.

"Human beings who live less than a century claim land that has been there since the dawn of time as 'ours.' We maintain the right to 'develop' this land, to behave as if the only time frame that mattered were our own lifespan."

-- Ellen Goodman, April 1995

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