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Editor: Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Phone, 865-482-2153
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Dear Senator Doe, President George W. Bush, Governor Don Sundquist
The Hon. John Doe, The White House, State Capitol
United States Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20510
Washington, DC 20500, 202-456-1111; Fax 456-2461

To call any Rep or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.
General contact info: http://www.lcv.org
Note that mail to Congress is very slow following the anthrax scare. Consider adding 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 strengths lie 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.

TCWP: 130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830
President: Jimmy Groton, 865-483-5799 (evening).
Exec. Director: Marcy Reed, 865-691-8807 or 481-0286; MarcyRReed@aol.com
Membership/Development Directors:
Sandra Goss, 865-522-3800; SKGoss@esper.com and Marcy Reed, 865-691-8807; MarcyRReed@aol.com
Newsletter editor: Lee Russell, 865-482-2153
Internet: http://www.kornet.org/TCWP/
1. OBED: VERY GOOD AND VERY BAD NEWS

A. House bill contains $1.5 million acquisition funds for Obed

$1.5 million for Obed National Wild & Scenic River land acquisition has been included in the mark-up of the House Interior Appropriations bill, thanks to Congressman Zach Wamp (TN-3rd Dist.), who chairs the subcommittee. He was publicly quoted as describing the Obed WSR as "an incredible asset." In his personal phone message to us, Rep. Wamp said: "Congratulations, it worked! Good working with you and for you. This should be good news for all those people who appreciate good conservation in East Tennessee."

It is indeed good news, because the sum should be sufficient for the National Park Service to acquire virtually all the remaining land within the authorized boundary of the Obed WSR, land that could have been acquired (at much lower cost) in the course of the past 25 years, and which is becoming increasingly threatened by possible development.

This bill, however, has quite a ways to go before it becomes law, and we must be sure the Obed appropriation stays intact as the bill wends its way through the remainder of the legislative process.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
Contact Rep. Wamp (see p.2) to express your sincere appreciation for his action, and to urge him to make sure the Obed appropriation remains intact in the bill as it wends its way through Congress.

B. Major oil-well pollution pouring into Clear Creek - late-breaking news

[Based on various verbal reports]

An oil well that has been leaking into Clear Creek probably since mid-week started burning in the morning of July 20 and is now billowing out black smoke while continuing to pump. In one sense, the fire is a good thing because it is burning up most of the oil that had been discharging into White's Creek, just before it enters Clear Creek a few hundred feet upstream of Barnett Bridge.

The well is located on the end of the ridge above Barnett Bridge on the NW side of White's Creek, only about 600 feet outside the park boundary. It has been in service for about a week, 24 hours a day, and is said to be producing a highly prolific 200 barrels hourly. Nearby residents began noting a strong "petroleum" odor about mid-week, when the oil leakage probably started, and the fire might have been ignited by a spark from a bulldozer.

Booms were placed into Clear Creek just below Barnett Bridge and below Jett Bridge in an attempt to capture the oil. According to an estimate, 97% has been contained by the Barnett booms, and, according to recent report, no oil is visible at Jett Bridge; however, others have reported yellow gobs and streaks of oil getting past the booms. As of our latest reports, the oil behind the booms had not yet been removed, possibly (some say) because of uncertainty about how best to accomplish the pumping. An expert team from Texas is being flown in that will build a containment area around the well prior to capping it, probably on Tuesday or Wednesday. The well will keep pumping and burning until then. EPA and the Coastguard are said to be on the scene.

Preliminary assessment of the impact indicates that half a mile of rivers (Clear Creek and lower White's Creek) has been affected, but it is as yet unknown how great the resource damage will be. This oil-well tragedy could have been prevented. It will be essential to determine whether existing regulations were not enforced and/or whether more stringent regulations are needed.

Because this well is so productive, additional wells in the area are a strong probability. The current tragedy indicates that a wider buffer zone around the Obed WSR is needed. Under the terms of the 1968 Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, a considerably wider boundary is permitted.

C. Come to meeting on watershed-specific plan for Emory/Obed

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is using a watershed approach to address water quality (which includes quantity), and different groups of watershed are addressed in staggered 5-year cycles. The Emory/Obed watershed was one of the Group 1 Watersheds for which this 5-year cycle is complete. At this point, watershed-specific plans are presented by TDEC and discussed by the pub.
lic. A meeting for this purpose has been scheduled for
August 29, 7:00 p.m. EDT,
Morgan County Courthouse
South Kingston and Main Streets
Wartburg

The Obed Watershed Association has expressed serious concern about recent degradations of Daddy's Creek due to new golf courses, a new sewage treatment plant of dubious effectiveness, and, particularly, the Cumberland Coal Company that they contend deserves to be closed down. They have requested that at least Daddy's Creek, and possibly the Obed also, be added to the 303(d) list.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
Anyone interested in the well-being of the Emory/Obed watershed is urged to attend this meeting. The watershed-specific plan can be viewed and downloaded at:
http://www.state.mn.us/environment/wrc/wsmp/plans/index.html

D. Effects of climbing on cliff vegetation

Results of a study by Michele McMillan, Univ. of Guelph, Ontario, confirm the wisdom of some of the provisions recently proposed for the Obed Climbing Plan (NL245 71C). McMillan studied vegetation on 25 climbing routes and 25 comparable unclimbed cliff faces and found a considerably lower number of plants on the former. Even more significant is the difference in the percentage of alien species. In the climbed areas, 81% of the species were alien, compared with only 27% in the unclimbed areas. The high percentage in the former sites is ascribed to, (a) the reduction in total plant number (leaving more room for establishment of the aliens), and (b) introduction of the alien species via climbers shoes and/or other clothes.

McMillan, who stresses that she is not anti-climbing, makes three recommendations:
• Stick to currently established routes, rather than creating new ones,
• Don't cutoff branches or other vegetation to create or improve a climbing route,
• Don't wirebrush or blowtorch mosses and lichens when initiating a new route.

E. A special license plate for BSF

Among the ~25 new specialty and cultural license plates recently created by Act of the General Assembly, one benefits the Friends of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Inc., a group that performs certain volunteer services for the National Park Service. The new plates will be $35 and will not be produced until and unless 1,000 are pre-sold.

2. WHITE'S CREEK SMALL WILD AREA

A. TCWP effort to purchase buffering land from Bowater

There has been a tremendous response to our appeal for funds to purchase ~50 acres of Bowater land that surrounds the White's Creek Small Wild Area (SWA). This land contains an integral part of the trail TCWP has maintained since the early 1980s, when TVA bestowed SWA designation to the area in response to a long-standing request by TCWP. The SWA is situated in the Whites Creek embayment of Watts Bar Reservoir, and encompasses forest-covered ridges, hollows, and secluded coves. The trail that passes through these also traverses adjacent Bowater land, including a couple of knolls that offer views over deeply indented bays and relatively undeveloped shores.

About a year ago, when Bowater decided to sell two very large tracts in the area, they agreed to let us have the ~50 acres that include the trail (and buffer the SWA) for $1,000/acre. Since the deadline for our making an offer to buy is August 1, we mounted a fund drive about a month ago, encouraged by the great generosity of one of our members who offered to match any donation made toward this purchase.

Well folks, we are almost there, and we are exceedingly grateful to those of you who have so generously donated!!! So far, we have received about 70 donations, ranging from $20 to several thousand. We need only a few thousand more; anything we can't raise by the purchase date, will have to be borrowed, which will cost us interest. So we hope very much that those of you who have not yet done so will soon contribute to this very worthwhile, very tangible project.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
Make a tax-deductible donation to TCWP, Inc., marked for White's Creek, and mail it to Charlie Klabunde, 219 E. Vanderbilt, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.
B. Attempt to add adjacent TVA tract

Just upstream from the White's Creek SWA is another TVA tract (#78) that extends along 1+ mile of shoreline and rises to a ridge and a couple of knolls. Separated from the SWA by a TWRA boat ramp, Tract #78's currently allocated uses are forest, visual, and wildlife management.

In mid-June, TCWP wrote to TVA requesting that the agency consider addition of Tract #78 to the SWA, and offering to develop and maintain a trail within this tract. TVA responded by arranging a meeting for July 18 in which four TCWP members participated. It turns out that the process is not as simple as we had thought and must be finalized through the next update of the Watts Bar Land Management Plan. There are, however, a number of steps that we can take now to approach this approval, and we will keep you informed about them.

3. STATE LEGISLATURE ACTIONS

A. Fate of state parks bills

[Based on information from Tennessee Conservation Voters]

State Parks Management and Preservation Act, SB 735/HB 556 -- failed

This Sierra-Club-initiated bill would have created an independent and separate administrative board of conservation, and a state parks agency. The primary concern was the protection and welfare of the parks, removing them from politics, establishing continuity in administration, and ensuring professional experience in parks administration.

SB 735/HB 556 was approved by the respective Environment Committees of both Houses, but died in the respective Finance Committees. The fate of the bill appeared mostly unrelated to its merits and, instead, revolved around disagreements between committee chair and bill sponsor concerning a state income tax.

Penny for Parks and Penny for Tourism (add-a-penny version), SB 3105/HB 3129 -- failed

Gas and diesel tax would each have increased one cent to provide a dedicated funding source for state parks and state tourism activities. Ultimately the bill failed because of the strong influence of the Road-builders Assn., which did not want to set a precedent for using fuel-tax funds (even though it was additional money) for non-transportation related purposes. Sen. Environment Committee chairman, Ramsey, who favors the measure, stated that he would reopen the committee to vote on the bill if it appeared that other revenue to fully fund the parks was not likely to be forthcoming.

New license plate

Among ~25 new specialty license plates recently created by Act of the General Assembly, one benefits state parks in a special way: proceeds from sale of this plate are to be used solely for the maintenance of hiking trails and non-developed natural areas and their support facilities within the parks. The new plates will cost $35 and will not be produced until and unless 1,000 are pre-sold.

Now that the state is operating again. While many of us don't like the method by which the legislature finally decided to raise revenues, we're glad the state shut-down is over and that there won't be a drastic cut in services. Parks are open. The $2.5 million of parks money that was removed two years ago was reinserted into the budget. (Funding for The Conservationists! magazine that was also deleted two years ago has not been re-budgeted.)

B. Authorization for TWRA purchase

~80,000 acres -- passed

[Based on information from Tennessee Conservation Voters]

This bill, which authorized TWRA to purchase the ~80,000-acre International Paper Co. properties, in Anderson, Scott, Morgan and Campbell counties (NL244 12A), using the Wetlands Fund, was passed by both houses and sent to Governor on July 4. It included an amendment, based on a resolution passed by the Anderson County Court, which encourages TWRA's executive director to develop plans for managing these lands so as to maximize the benefits of reaching the largest number of users, and to work with local governments to consider making portions available for local purposes. We have heard (not yet officially) that the land has been purchased by the Conservation Fund for TWRA.

C. Tennessee Water Resources Information Act -- passed

[Based on information from Tennessee Conservation Voters]

One of the session's most important environmental bills, introduced by the Dept. of Environment and Conservation, passed at the end of May (Public Chapter 800). This new law, for the first time in Tennessee, will institute a registration system that can obtain adequate information to assist
with water users and providers in understanding and projecting growth in water demand. The TDEC Commissioner will have rulemaking authority. A major impetus for this bill is the need to protect our state's water supply from out-of-state water demands, especially Atlanta's. Agriculture was exempted from the bill with assurances from the Farm Bureau leadership that they would push for grassroots approval by the group by 2003, which would then allow the law to be appropriately amended.

D. Scenic Rivers Act amendment

As reported earlier (NL245 ¶3C), the State Natural Areas/Scenic Rivers bill that passed this year ended up by deleting proposed rivers additions but enacted a voluntary registry program for rivers lands. With a copy of the new law now in hand, we can clarify the latter provision. Along designated state scenic river segments, TDEC shall maintain a registry of riparian lands that are not in state ownership, but whose owners have agreed to maintain them in a natural state. While such registration does not involve any transfer of property rights, land owners may voluntarily consent to have the registered areas included within Scenic River boundaries. The Commissioner may adopt guidelines concerning the uses that may be made of the registered lands. Lands whose owner has failed to maintain them in a natural state shall be removed from the registry.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please vote!!! In several cases, the primary (August 1) can be at least as important as the general election on Nov. 5. Inform yourself of the candidates' environmental records and/or positions before going to the polls.

4. OTHER STATE NEWS

A. Important political races for Tennessee

Several very big political races are coming up for our state, and it will be important for us to become acquainted with the candidates' environmental records and/or positions before we vote. Open seats will be contested for U.S. senator (since Sen. Thompson is retiring) and for U.S. representatives in three districts in which incumbents have chosen to run for other offices. These are the 4th (incumbent Van Hilleary is running for governor), the 5th (incumbent Bob Clement is running for U.S. senator in the Democratic primary), and the 6th (incumbent Ed Bryant is running for U.S. senator, opposing Lamar Alexander in the Republican primary). In the August 1 primary, a returning candidate has a clearly superior environmental record. He is Jim Cooper, contesting the Democratic nomination for the 5th District (Nashville-area) congressional seat. During his 12 former years in the Congress, he had a lifetime League of Conservation Voters rating of 73% and was designated by LCV as Tennessee's "best Congressman at protecting the environment." He led the fight in the House to acquire land for the Big South Fork NRRA and to protect the resources of that park. He fought hard for clean air, and believes that we must conserve our energy resources.

Among incumbents, the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed U.S. Representatives Harold Ford (9th Distr.) and Bart Gordon (6th Distr.). These candidates have LCV Year-2001 scores of 86 and 71%, respectively (NL244 ¶8D). Of present Congressmen who are running for different offices, LCV 2001 scores are as follows: Clement, 79%; Bryant, 0%; Hilleary, 7%.

In addition to the federal contests, we have an important governor's race, and, of course, races for state legislators. The Sierra Club has endorsed six incumbent General Assembly candidates, who are "recognized for their votes on issues of environmental concern." They are Representatives Carol Chumney, Sherry Jones, Michael Kermell, Mike McDonald, Kim McMillan, Gary Odom, and Mike Turner.

B. Appropriations for National Park units in Tennessee

In addition to the $1.5 million for Obed Wild and Scenic River land acquisition (¶1A, above), Congressman Wamp inserted two other Tennessee items into the House Interior Appropriations bill. One was $1 million for Chickamauga/Chattanooga National Military Park; the other, $1.3 million for Mocassin Bend National Park near Chattanooga. We hope you will express your thanks.

C. Water-quality meetings of interest

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is using a watershed approach to address water quality, with three public meetings during each cycle of a given watershed. The first five-year watershed management cycle is complete for Group-1 Watersheds, and meetings have been scheduled to discuss watershed-specific plans, which can be viewed and downloaded at:

http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wps/wsmpl
ans/index.html. Watersheds that may be of special interest to Oak Ridgers are the Emory/Obed (see §1C, this NL), Watts Bar, and Ocoee. Meeting venues for the last two is as follows:

- Watts Bar: Aug 12, 7:00 p.m., Kingston Community Center, 201 Patton Ferry Road.
- Ocoee Aug 5, 7:00 p.m., 3rd Floor Courthouse, Courthouse, Benton

We hope you can attend the meeting(s) for the watershed(s) of interest to you.

D. State continues encouragement of regional water supplies

Recent announcement of a high award from EPA to the Duck River Utility Commission (Normandy Reservoir) has been the occasion of TDEC Commissioner’s Hamilton citing this agency as a model for establishing regional water authorities across the state. This approach encourages communities to share water and infrastructure, reducing costs, ensuring stable water supplies, and avoiding unnecessary environmental impacts. By contrast, many communities in the state still rely on numerous small utilities that seek to develop their own uncoordinated water supplies.

E. Input thwarted for Unicoi Uranium-enrichment-plant proposal

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

On June 18, the northeast Tennessee town of Unicoi was indicated as one of three possible sites for a new uranium enrichment plant. With selection of location scheduled as early as this month, some Unicoi County officials have been working for three to four months to pave the way for this $1 billion facility. However, as of this writing, a forum for officials to hear the public voice has not been provided.

The plant is proposed by Louisiana Energy Services (LES), a consortium whose major investor is European-owned Urenco. LES proposes to deploy a gas-centrifuge technology that is new to the U.S. but has been used for 15 years in Urenco’s facilities in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Germany. The plant would enrich uranium to a maximum of 5% for use in nuclear reactors to generate electricity.

A similar plant proposed by LES in 1989 near Homer, Louisiana, was opposed by local citizens with charges of environmental racism. The site being considered there was over 400 acres, and LES siting criteria included that there be no school, hospital, or nursing home within five miles. LES withdrew its application after seven years and $33 million in legal costs.

The Unicoi location now being considered is a 100-plus-acre site near Tinker Road in an area that has become known as “The Valley Beautiful.” The location is within one mile of Unicoi Elementary School. Rezoning of the site from A-1 (agricultural) to M-2 (heavy industrial) would be required. The site has streams and springs and a high water table. It flooded most recently in September 2001.

The plant location is supported by the County’s Economic Development Board (EDB), Unicoi Mayor, County Executive, School Board, and local State Legislator. Most owners of property within the 100-acre site have been approached by EDB and signed papers of intent to negotiate. Urenco competitor, Nuclear Fuel Services, located in nearby Erwin, issued an internal memo to its employees encouraging them to actively promote the new plant in the community.

The State has budgeted $750,000 for site improvements. Supporters cite benefits from hundreds of new jobs and increased revenues.

A local group, “Citizens for the Preservation of the Valley Beautiful,” is attempting to learn more about the enrichment process and its potential impacts on the town and its people, and to share that information with other citizens. Issues of interest include multipliers for touted benefits, long-term health risks, environmental impacts, security risks, property-value impacts, waste disposal, material transportation, questionable market for enriched uranium, and the license amendment process for potential additional nuclear activities at the site.

On July 9, the group gathered 160-strong with a town alderman, who had tried to get them on the agenda for the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA). He was told the BMA meeting was canceled for lack of an agenda. A meeting of the County Planning Commission had been similarly canceled. The alderman was further warned that continued opposition would be countered by unincorporating the town. There is concern that this development enterprise may have been deliberately engineered by local authorities to exclude potential public opposition until after a site is chosen.

5. ALLIANCE FOR THE CUMBERLANDS CONTINUES ACTIVE

[The Alliance for the Cumberlands is a project of TCWP’s Public Lands Committee, chaired by Mary Lynn Dobson. The following report was contributed by Sandra K. Goss.]
A. Mission Statement

At a meeting on July 10, some two dozen participants ratified the following description and Mission Statement:

"The Alliance for the Cumberlands is a partnership of public and private organizations unified in its commitment to protect the Cumberlands region of West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. Our mission is to bring people together to achieve the ecological and economic sustainability of natural and human communities in the Cumberlands region. The group, which includes representatives from such organizations as Tennessee Nature Conservancy, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Historic Rugby, TVA, Pickett State Park, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is dedicated to pursuing our mutual concerns."

B. Goals and committees

At the July 10 meeting, the group established three goals to be accomplished in the next year:

- Create a public and political identity for the Cumberlands.
- Identify public monies in the FY 2004 appropriations cycle; develop and implement strategies to secure acquisition funds.
- Organizational growth and stability.

The committees that were established to address each of these goals will prepare Action Plans and Time Lines, which will be ready prior to the group’s next meeting, scheduled for November 19. During the meeting, it was discovered that each organization has some resources in various areas, e.g., maps, political friends and intelligence. Working together and pooling our resources will provide a powerful voice for the Cumberlands.

6. TVA: A BAD PROPOSAL AND OTHER NEWS

A. TVA considering sale of public lands to developer - your comments needed by August 16

[Based on a contribution by the Watershed Association of the Tellico Reservoir--WATER]

Rarity Bay developer Mike Ross has requested 120 acres of TVA land to develop Rarity Pointe. This acreage would be additional to a large amount of land Ross had already purchased from the Tellico Reservoir Development Agency. His total development, which would consist of approximately 621 acres, is located in the lower Jackson Bend area on Tellico Reservoir and includes residential homes, a marina and lighthouse, a lodge and spa, rental cabins, a championship golf course, and retail shops.

Only three years ago, when preparing the Tellico Reservoir Land Management Plan, TVA considered a similar proposal to sell this same property to a private developer. The agency received well over 3,000 letters opposing this reclassification and sale of shoreline property, and the TVA Board rejected the proposal. It was stated that no more TVA property designated for public use on Tellico Lake would be sold for private development.

Among numerous reasons for opposing the current Rarity Bay proposal that have been cited by WATER and others are the following:

- In view of what happened three years ago (see above), TVA’s decision to consider the sale of this Tellico shoreline property is a severe breach of trust.
- In its Shoreline Management Initiative, TVA pledged no net loss of public land.
- The proposal is a fundamental threat to a carefully developed reservoir plan. Thus, in June 2000, with extensive input from the public, TVA published the Tellico Reservoir Land Management Plan, which essentially refined and reconfirmed the already good original Tellico plan.
- If approved, this sale would set a precedent of the Master Plan not being heeded when other developers come knocking at TVA’s door, as they undoubtedly would. An even broader implication is that management plans throughout the TVA system would become meaningless.
- The acreage now requested by this developer for a gated up-scale community, includes 78 acres designated in the Tellico Plan for natural resource conservation. Our quickly diminishing natural landscapes in Tennessee need to be preserved for future generations.
- In the course of TVA’s Tellico project, for which the government acquired 37,737 acres of land in Blount, Loudon, and Monroe counties, 350 families had to surrender their homes and land. Is it fair to them to have Tellico land privatized for the exclusive benefit of the wealthy?
WHAT YOU CAN DO:
(1) By August 16, send your comments, however brief, to Jon M. Loney, Manager, NEPA Administration, Environmental Policy, and Planning, TVA, WT 8B, 400 West Summit Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37902-1499. You can also comment by phone (865-632-3012), Fax (865-632-6855), or e-mail (tvainfo@tva.gov, head message Attn.: Jon M. Loney). If you need more info, call Spencer Boardman at 865-632-1550 or visit www.tva.gov.
(2) Send copies of your letter to the TVA Board of Directors (West Summit Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37902), and to your US Senators and Congressman (see p.2).

B. TVA's shoreline assessment reveals 880 miles in poor condition

Using an "up-close-and-personal" approach by boat, TVA has completed an inspection of its 11,000 miles of shoreline in 7 states. The study found 8% of the shoreline to be in poor condition, and another 23% in fair condition. The 880 miles that were classified to be in poor condition are experiencing rapid soil erosion, often with actual loss of land and of trees and other vegetation that provide wildlife and fisheries habitat. Accompanying this erosion is excessive sedimentation and degraded water quality. Intensive land use contributes to poor shoreline condition.

Since 1992, TVA and its partners have stabilized about 35 miles of critically eroding shoreline at 173 sites; 50 sites in another 7 miles of shoreline are projected to be stabilized in FY 2002.

C. Reservoir Operations study

TVA is currently engaged in summarizing public input into this study on which numerous meetings were held (NL244 §6B). Subsequently, the agency will prepare a Draft EIS, describing the alternatives and the trade-offs involved, and at least 45 days will be set aside for additional workshops in which to gather public comments on the Draft. If you have questions on the study, e-mail costudy@tva.com or call David Nye, ROS Project Manager at 888-882-7675; for additional information, visit www.tva.com.

D. TVA's wind power generation

When TVA encountered local (and vocal) concerns, the agency cancelled its plans to locate over a dozen 1.5 MW wind turbines on Stone Mountain, near Mountain City. The site had been identified as providing the greatest wind energy potential for the program. The alternative is to add turbines to the Buffalo Mountain site (near Oak Ridge), where the capacity for generating wind power is lower.

7. THE CHEROKEE; NATIONAL FOREST ISSUES NATIONWIDE

A. Cherokee National Forest Plan Revision

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The Forest Service has set August 22 for an open house to bring the public up to date on the Cherokee Plan Revision’s Rolling Alternative I (NL242 §6A). This is not a public hearing to receive comments. Opportunity to do that will come after the Draft EIS comes out early next year.

Every 10-15 years the public gets to provide input into the overall management plans for our Cherokee National Forest. Land Management Plans (LMP) direct the management and set the parameters for projects that can take place on national forests. The LMP sets the context for all projects decisions, such as timber sales, road construction, and development within the national forest. Decisions in the LMP are set for the life of the plan (10-15 years) and it’s difficult to oppose management direction allowed or directed in the LMP.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please take part in the management of your Cherokee National Forest. To find out the time and location of the August 22 meeting, contact Catherine Murray, cfvcatherine@worldnet.att.net, or 423-929-8163.

B. Support bill to codify the Roadless Area Conservation Rule

The 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule developed under the Clinton Administration (NL236 §4A) was a historic measure to preserve a fundamental piece of our natural heritage. Although the Rule had overwhelming popular support, the Bush Administration has made every effort to delay and impede its implementation (NL240 §5D; NL241 §6A), and has, in fact, actively disregarded it, e.g., by leasing parts of a roadless National Forest area to companies proposing to drill over 100 oilwells.

Because of these dire new threats to our Forests’ remaining roadless areas, there is now a bipartisan effort in the Congress to codify the 2001 Rule into law. Authored by Representatives Jay
Inslee (D-WA) and Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), the National Forest Roadless Conservation Act was introduced in the House on June 5 and, as of July 3, had 176 co-sponsors, including Tennessee's Bob Clement (D-5), Bart Gordon (D-6) and Harold Ford (D-9). Tennessee's national forests represent about 2.6% of our state's landmass, and, within that small area, 12% is inventoried as roadless. Surely we can afford to protect that much (little)!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
(1) Thank Reps. Clement, Gordon and Ford for cosponsoring the bill.
(2) Urge your own Representative to become a co-sponsor, and your Senators to support a similar bill in the Senate. To see who is a co-sponsor and to learn more about the legislation, visit: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d107:hr04865

C. Wildfires fuel anti-forest-protection policies

As the National Forest Protection Alliance has put it, "the Forest Service, Bush Administration and anti-environmental members of Congress are spreading a great deal of misinformation about wildfire, hoping to capitalize on public fire hysteria and minimize public opposition to increased logging and roadbuilding in our national forests." Because of this, 144 conservation groups (including the Cherokee Forest Voices and the Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project) recently sent a letter to U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, and to every member of Congress, outlining the conservation community's position on wildfires, home protection and fuel-reduction projects.

The letter cites past actions and positions demonstrating that "the conservation community is deeply committed to the protection of homes and communities." For years, conservation organizations have been pressuring the Forest Service to focus its efforts on protection of communities through the use of both prescribed burning and reduction of underbrush, rather than continuing to log our remaining old-growth trees in remote wildlands. "Unfortunately," says the letter, "National Fire Plan funds have been misused by the Forest Service to promote commercial logging, have not been targeted towards the highest risk areas, and have failed to effectively protect homes and communities from fires." It has been pointed out that the recent Rodeo-Chediski fire in Arizona -- which burned through over 2,100 miles of logging roads and 10 recent timber sale areas -- is a perfect illustration of how industrial logging does not fireproof a forest.

Near its conclusion, the letter by the 144 organizations states: "We will continue to expand our efforts to safeguard communities, while at the same time, promote and support ecologically-based restoration projects on our national forests."

8. SMOKIES ISSUES

A. GT. Smokey Mountains Coalition meeting

In view of the many important issues that have recently become acute in and around the Park, the Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition (GSMC) is holding a discussion and strategy meeting on July 27 (10:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont). Issues to be discussed include:
- Regional air quality -- federal law and policy
- Cades Cove Transportation Plan (NL245 §5C)
- Elkmont General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment (NL245 §5B)
- Support of cash settlement in lieu of North Shore Road (NL245 §5A)
- Blue Ridge Parkway General Management Plan and Transportation Implementation Plan
- Plans for a hike in the Park -- to celebrate the 1969 hike protesting proposal for a new trans-mountain road.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: This is short notice, but if you can attend this meeting, contact either Greg Kidd at gkidd@bluearbors.com or Beverly Smith at blsmith1300@comcast.net. If you are unable to attend but want to find out what happened, contact these same people.

B. Demo of alternative transportation

At the end of June, communities in Sevier County celebrated Clean Air Week with a large demonstration of transit buses utilizing various low-emission technologies. They included electric, hybrid-electric, fuel cell, compressed natural gas, and low-sulfur diesel. The event, which was managed by the Electric Vehicle Transit Institute (a nonprofit organization based in Chattanooga) was part of an effort to review public-transit options in Sevier County. (For further information, contact Susan Thomas, 423-622-3864.)
9. OAK RIDGE AREA

A. Oak Ridge Reservation land-use planning

[Contributed by Dev Joslin]

Efforts to develop a comprehensive land-use plan for the Dept. of Energy's (DOE) 36,000-acre Oak Ridge Reservation are moving ahead. The Land Use Planning Focus Group, composed of local and state representatives from different perspectives, is scheduled to complete its series of meetings in September, after over a year of discussion and research. A report authored by SAIC (19C, this NL) and the group members will be submitted to DOE, who will then prepare a comprehensive plan for the entire 36,000 acres comprising the current reservation.

The Focus Group has been limited in its considerations to about 5,000 acres of the westernmost 7,500 acres of the reservation. DOE has stated that this westernmost portion is not essential for its current missions, whereas it intends to retain the remainder of the reservation lands. These 7,500 acres include about 2,000 acres already designated for development or open areas as Heritage Center (ETTP, the former K-25 site) and Horizon Center (Parcel ED-1), and about 500 acres of ED-1 previously designated as a protected natural zone along East Fork Poplar Creek.

A recent (June 6) DOE Public Meeting on the planning process had an excellent turnout of local citizens, the vast majority of whom voiced strong support for conservation and research on the land being studied by the Focus Group. Four scenarios are being considered for the 5,000 acres at the western end. While the scenarios differ in the amount of land designated for industrial or residential development (from about 200 to 1000 acres), the majority in all scenarios would be designated for conservation and research. Hopefully, the focus group will come to an agreement to recommend to DOE that these lands be permanently preserved. The strong turnout by many members of TCWP and other local citizens who have supported these areas has been an important factor in maintaining momentum in this direction.

B. TCWP comments on transfer of Parcel ED-1 to CROET

TCWP recently submitted extensive comments on DOE's Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed transfer of ED-1 (Horizon Center) to CROET. (Our comments were reported in an Oak Rigger article of July 3.) This parcel contains about 450 acres of Natural Area, protection of which was a primary mitigation action leading to a 1996 FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) for ED-1. TCWP's eight comments on the current Draft EA address the Natural Area protection issues and include the following:

- The DEA attempts to justify continued whittling away of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) in small pieces without a true cumulative impact assessment. TCWP continues to urge a comprehensive land-use plan for the ORR.

- To provide protection in perpetuity for the Natural Area, TCWP recommends donation of fee-title, or conservation easement, to an organization such as The Nature Conservancy. The DEA is vague on how deed transfer to CROET would ensure continued protection of the Natural Area; deed restrictions are very difficult to enforce, and sometimes even get dropped.

- TCWP recommends that the 45-acre "Parcel 4," which is isolated from the other development areas, be excluded from development and added to the Natural Area.

B. Comment on draft Land Use Technical Report for ORR

[Information from Dev Joslin]

SAIC has just released its draft report on the land-use planning process for the western 5,000 acres of the Oak Ridge Reservation (¶9A, above). This document summarizes the analysis of numerous factors pertaining to future land use--in the process of comparing 4 possible scenarios--that are under consideration by the Focus Group for DOE's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

This draft, when finalized, will become the major document that DOE should rely upon to make land-use planning decisions for the 5,000+ acres. We hope some of you can comment on it. If you want to limit your analysis to only one or two subjects, or if you do not wish to submit individual comments to DOE, you can send your thoughts to AFORR for incorporation into their submission (Dev Joslin, Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, 112 Newcrest Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Congressman Wamp (address on p.2), members of the Oak Ridge City Council, and to local and national DOE officials expressing your support for permanently preserving the unique natural lands on the Oak Ridge Reservation for conservation and research.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The comment deadline is August 2. You can pick up a copy of the Draft re-
port at DOE’s new information office, 475 O.R. Turnpike (next to Food City), or you can contact Dev Joslin about it (482-7591, or djoslin@esper.com).

10. NATIONAL ISSUES

A. Land & Water Conservation Fund and other Interior funding

[Info from Americans for our Heritage and Recreation and from Conservation Fund]

Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have now marked up the Interior Appropriations, but floor votes are yet to come. As a result of a measure enacted at the end of 2000 (NL236 §78), the Land & Water Fund (LWCF) appropriation, which is used for land acquisitions, is now part of Title VIII, the Conservation Trust, which also encompasses a number of other programs. For FY 2003, Title VIII was fully funded at its $1.44 billion authorization, but, within it, the LWCF appropriation is down from last year, though higher than requested by the Bush Administration.

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<th>LWCF appropriations (in $ million) *</th>
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<td>FY'03 House bill</td>
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<td>UPARR</td>
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*The State portion is for matching state expenditures. UPARR is the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program.

Additional Title VIII appropriations in the FY'03 bill include the following (in $ million):

- 60 Forest Legacy
- 60 State Wildlife grants
- 44 N.American Wetlands Conservation Fund
- 30 Save America’s Treasures
- 46 Historic Preservation Fund
- 50 FWS Landowner Incentive Program
- 36 Urban Forestry
- 111 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact your senators (p.2) and urge them to increase the state grants and UPARR at least to their House levels (but not at the expense of any other program). Our state desperately needs matching grants. And the cut in UPARR would cause many cities to lose valuable urban revitalization funds.

B. Latest attack on the Antiquities Act averted

The Antiquities Act gives the President the authority to protect areas that have significant scenic, scientific, historic, or cultural values. Starting with Teddy Roosevelt, 14 of the last 17 presidents have used the Act to protect special places like the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, Zion, and the Grant Tetons. But for some time now, anti-environmental members of Congress have been out to gut the Antiquities Act. The latest intended weapon was HR.2114, up for a vote on June 19, which would, among other things, remove protective status from any new National Monument of over 50,000 acres within 2 years of designation unless the Congress okays it. Several of us urged our Congressmen to oppose HR.2114, and Rep. Wamp called back to say that he did. The bill failed to pass, but there are many other similar measures loose in the Congress.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Thank Rep. Wamp for his opposition to HR.2114 (address on p.2) and urge him to oppose any similar bills that might come up in the future. The Antiquities Act is an essential tool for protecting special public lands that are the heritage of every American, and it has served the country exceedingly well for almost a hundred years.

C. The Bush global warming plan would warm the globe

[Information from NRDC’s Nature’s Voice]

In February, the White House put forward the plan described as an alternative to the rejected Kyoto Protocol. The plan claims to reduce emissions from current levels by 2/3 to 3/4 over the next 10 years. But an analysis by NRDC (National Resources Defense Council) reveals that heat-trapping CO_{2} pollution would, in fact, increase at almost exactly the same 14% rate at which it has soared over the past 10 years.

The Bush plan introduces a new indicator, “emissions intensity” = amount of CO_{2} pollution relative to economic growth. The indicator will decrease — giving a false appearance of pollution improvement — as long as economic growth outpaces CO_{2} increases. Thus, during the 1990-2000 decade, the “emission intensity” measure decreased even though CO_{2} emissions were rapidly rising. Under the Bush scenario, we will exceed our 1990 level of CO_{2} by 2012, while the rest of
the industrialized world has committed to reducing actual emissions down to near-1990 levels.

11. TCWP NEWS

A. Changes on TCWP Board

Rob James has been unable to complete his 2002 term on the TCWP Board of Directors. In accordance with our bylaws, unexpired terms can be filled by vote of the Board. Frank Hensley was unanimously nominated to complete Rob James's unexpired term and has graciously accepted.

B. Past activities

Participation in recent hikes (Larry Pounds' wild-flower hike and Chuck Estes' Scott's Gulf outing) was very small, but those who came enjoyed themselves greatly. Similarly, there was a regrettable small turnout for Dan Robbins' fine presentation on Oak Ridge Greenways. Let's do better on the following upcoming events (§11C, below!)

Thanks to Janet Lowrie and the Oak Ridge Garden Club, TCWP was able to have a display at the recent Flower Show at the Oak Ridge Mall. Also thanks for the opportunity to show our display at the Environmental Roundup, recently held at the Oak Ridge Children's Museum.

C. Upcoming activities

[The following are activities of TCWP's Service Committee. Article contributed by Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809 or skgoss@esper.com]

Whooping Crane program, Thursday, Sept. 12
Our fall membership meeting (7:00 p.m., Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room) will feature a presentation by Jim and Sandy Ulrikson of "Whooping Cranes Over Tennessee." This new organization is dedicated to fostering heightened public awareness of, and pride in, the history-making Whooping Crane reintroduction program. This majestic bird once inhabited much of North America, including Tennessee, but was nearly wiped out due to human development and unregulated hunting.

Worthington Cemetery workday, Saturday, Sept. 28
This Ecological Study Area in Oak Ridge will once again benefit from TCWP's National Public Lands Day program. Starting at 10:00 a.m., volunteers are needed to "weed out" pervasive exotic plants such as privet, wisteria, and multiflora rose. Bring your gloves and clippers. Lunch will be provided. The Oak Ridge Leage of Women Voters and Tennessee Valley Authority cosponsor this event.

TCWP Annual Meeting, Saturday, October 12, Cumberland Mountain State Park. Our morning program will be devoted to the Alliance for the Cumberlands ($5, this NL); and in the afternoon we'll have hikes, both easy and moderate. Lunch will include the famous buffet at the Park restaurant.

Greenbriar hike, Saturday, Nov. 9. This easy hike to the old Smoky Mtns. Hiking Club cabin will be led by Hal Smith (details in next NL).

D. You can help TCWP receive much cash through Kroger program

We received checks of $267 and $276 from Kroger in February and May, respectively, through TCWP members' participation in the Gift Card program (Kroger donated 5% of actual purchases made with these cards).

Kroger has now reverted from gift cards to gift certificates (i.e., the program we originally participated in), but the bottom line remains the same: TCWP will receive a percentage of the money you spend at the store—it costs you not a dime. You purchase from TCWP whatever denomination of gift certificates you desire (see below), then use these in lieu of cash at the checkout counter. You get change (in cash) for any unused portion of the certificate. All other special deals ("Plus Card" and Wednesday Senior discounts) remain in full force with Gift Certificate use.

It's an easy way for you to contribute to TCWP without giving us any money. We buy the certificates from Kroger, and you buy them from us for the same amount they cost us, then use them whenever convenient. At intervals, Kroger then sends TCWP a check for 4% of all the purchases that have been made with TCWP-purchased gift certificates. Contact Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com, to get your certificates.

E. TCWP now full member of Community Shares

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TCWP has recently received full-member status within Community Shares. Community Shares (CS) works to raise money for social change through workplace campaigns, similar to those conducted by United Way. Among its member orga-
nizations are the Tennessee Environmental Council, Tennessee Clean Water Network, TSRA, the Highlander Center, and 37 other social change organizations across the state.

As a full member, we will receive a share of the undesignated contributions that CS garners in their workplace campaigns. As before, TCWP will also receive all funds that are earmarked by the giver for our organization.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Give generously during your CS workplace campaign, and mark your contribution to go to TCWP. If your workplace does not have Community Shares as a giving option, call TCWP staffer Sandra K. Goss (865-522-3809 or skgoss@esper.com) for information on how to work for such an option. No workplace is too small for a campaign and it's nice to have options for charitable contributions.

12. JOB OPENINGS; CALENDAR; RESOURCES

Job openings
- The Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC) is looking for a fulltime Program Coordinator to provide organization and leadership for CTC's non-profit Volunteer Trail Building & Educational Programs. Must have transportation. Position based in Crossville, TN. Call 931-456-6259 for more information, or visit www.cumberlandtrail.org for a complete job description.

- Field organizers are needed by Americans for National Parks, a national coalition spearheaded by NPCA that is working to make national park preservation a priority to Congress and the Administration. Experienced organizers will work in Albuquerque, NM; Harrisburg, PA; and Hoboken, NJ. For a complete job description, and to apply, please mail, fax or e-mail your resume and cover letter to Marcia Lesky, National Campaign Field Manager, National Parks & Conservation Association. 1300-19th Street NW. Suite 300, Washington DC 20036; FAX 202-659-8183; e-mail mlesky@npca.org.

Events and deadlines calendar (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com; or Marcy Reed, 865-691-8807, marcyreed@adm.com).

- July 27, Smokies Coalition meeting (¶8A)
- August 1, Primary Election (¶4A)
- August 2, Deadline for comments on ORR report (¶9B)
- August 5, Ocoee Watershed meeting (¶4C)
- August 12, Watts Bar Watershed meeting (¶4C)
- August 16, Deadline for comments on Tellico development (¶6A)
- August 22, Cherokee NF Plan meeting (¶7A)
- August 29, Obid/Emory Watershed meeting (¶1C)
- September 12, TCWP program on whooping cranes (¶11C)
- September 28, National Public Lands Day workday at Worthington Cemetery (¶1C).
- October 12, TCWP Annual Meeting, Cumberland Mountains State Park (¶11C).
- November 5, General election (¶4A)
- November 9, Greenbriar hike (¶11C)
- November 19, Alliance for the Cumberland's meeting (¶5B)

Resources
- The “Forestwatch Field Guide” is a convenient laminated brochure displaying a photo comparison between good and bad forest practices in activities such as stream crossings, bank stabilization, streamside management zones, etc. Its publication by the Dogwood Alliance was made possible through a donation by TCWP member Frank Hensley. The Dogwood Alliance will have a southw ide ForestWatch database online by October (Contact info@dogwoodalliance.org, 423-332-7391, or 1-800-933-1396).

- Operation Enduring Forests: Exposing the Lies of the Bush/Rey Forest Service is a 4-page primer published by the National Forest Protection Alliance. It highlights the management proposals and policies of the Bush Administration under former timber-industry lobbyist Mark Rey, who is now Under Secretary (of Agriculture) for Natural Resources and Environment, in charge of the US Forest Service. Contact NFPA, PO Box 8264, Missoula Montana 59807, 406-542-7565, or visit www. forestadvocate.org/news/Rey/Primer.pdf.

- A “Wilderness Report Card,” which grades U.S. Senators and Representatives on their vote on bills relating to wilderness issues, is now being published by the American Wilderness Coalition. View it at www.americanwilderness.org.

- The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) newsletters are online at www.cleanedenergy.org -- click on the “read our latest newsletter” link.

- Watershed News is a monthly on-line publication from EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans and
Watersheds for groups working at the local level to protect and restore watersheds. To subscribe, send an email to listserver@unixmail.epa.gov. Within the body of the message, type "subscribe WATERSHED-NEWS First_Name Last_Name" Do not use any punctuation and type only one space between words (also omit quotes). If you encounter difficulties, contact scott.patricia@epa.gov.

- A user-friendly site for contacting your state legislator is http://www.legislature.state.tn.us. For Senators, click on "Senate," then "Members." For Representatives, click on "House," then "Members." You can find the individuals who represent you by name, county, or district.

- Predicting Invasions of Nonindigenous Plants and Plant Pests can be found at http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10259.html

- Economic value of forest ecosystem services is a 25-page report on forests' contribution to clean air and water, erosion control, stable climate, recreation, and more. A brochure focusing on eastern forests is included. (The Wilderness Society, publications@tws.org or call 202-429-2612)

"Every business colors itself green while "the greens" are caricatured as government intruders, bureaucratic busybodies."
Ellen Goodman, columnist, 4/21/02 column