



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

- 1. **Protecting the Cumberlands** p. 3
 - A. Petition to halt ridgeline mining: comments still needed
 - B. Oil and gas regulations need to address fracking
 - C. Obed capsules (Project wins 1st prize; Donation to acquisition fund)
- 2. **Tennessee State Government: a new year** p. 5
 - A. Land-acquisition funds: GREAT news, but continued effort needed
 - B. TDEC must be adequately funded
 - C. TDEC outreach
 - D. Leadership appointments in TDEC
 - E. Bills in 107th General Assembly
 - F. State Natural Areas: a successful program
- 3. **National and other Forests** p. 6
 - A. Major National Forest planning needs our input
 - B. Cherokee National Forest: Corridor-K planning continues
 - C. Forests offset carbon emissions, but this capacity is threatened
 - D. Georgia Pacific is not buying from pine-conversion harvests
- 4. **In the name of deficit reduction ...** p. 8
 - A. In the name of deficit reduction: the slaughter of environmental protections
 - B. HR.1 attacks the Endangered Species Act
 - C. Ill-advised penny pinching
- 5. **Other National Issues** p. 9
 - A. The Congressional vendetta against EPA: Special focus on climate change
 - B. Support EPA's "Mercury and Air Toxics" rule!
 - C. Wilderness in great trouble in the new Congress
 - D. The granddaddy of them all: the REINS Act
- 6. **TCWP News** p. 10
 - A. Progress in archiving TCWP's Newsletter collection
 - B. Chota Canoe Club donates to TCWP
 - C. Upcoming activities
 - D. From the Executive Director
 - E. Thanks to our volunteers
 - F. Recent activities
 - G. TCWP president speaks to paddling club
- 7. **Calendar; Resources** p. 13
- 8. **ACTION SUMMARY** p. 2

The BIG stories

Need comments on mining in Cumberland ¶1A

Oil & gas regs should address fracking ¶1B

Gov. Haslam includes conservation-land acquisition funds in his budget ¶2A

New Nat'l Forest planning rules proposed ¶3A

Environmental laws being slaughtered in the name of deficit reduction ¶4

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

8. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	N. Cumberlands mining petition	OSM, by April 14	"I support Alternative 1. Please prepare an EIS!"
1B	Oil & gas regulations; fracking	TDEC, by 5/9 (hearing 4/28)	"I support many good regs; but please add regs specific to fracking!"
2A	Funds for conservation lands	Gov. Haslam State legislators	"Thank you for including all 4 "transfer-tax" funds in your budget Tell them why it's important to <i>keep</i> these funds in <i>final</i> budget
2B	Funding TDEC	Your state legislators	"TDEC needs ability to enforce regs that protect our land, air, water!"
2E	Bill to ban ridgeline mining	Committee members	"Support SB.0577/ HB.0291, which would foster tourism economy"
2E	Recycling beverage containers	Sen. McNally	"Pass the 'bottle bill,' SB.337/HB.289!"
3A	National Forest Planning rule	USFS by 5/16 (meeting 3/28)	"Many features are excellent; but add mandatory standards!"
3B	Corridor K	TDoT	"I support Alt. 2 or 2a. Avoid new construction thru' Forest!"
4B	Endangered Species Act	Sen. Alexander and/or others	"Oppose use of budget bill to undermine species protection!"
5A	EPA enforcement of Clean Air Act	Your US senators and rep.	"This successful law protects the health of our people and planet!"
5B	"Mercury and Toxics" rule	EPA	"Thank you for this strong rule, which will save lives and health!"
5D	Congressional approval of all regs.	Your US senators and rep	"Vigorously oppose the REINS Act, HR.10!"
6A	Archiving TCWP NL collection	TCWP	Volunteer to help with scanning old Newsletters

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

The Hon. John Doe
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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bob Corker
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800 Market St., Suite 121, Knoxville 37902

Sen. Lamar Alexander:
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Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:
Phone: 202-225-3271
FAX: 202-225-3494
Local (O.R.): 865-576-1976
<https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me>

To call any 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.

There is much contact information in our new, up-to-date Political Guide, soon to be mailed. You can also access the Guide on TCWP's web site (<http://www.tcwp.org>)

WHAT IS TCWP?
See p. 14

1. THE CUMBERLANDS

1A. *Petition to halt ridge-top mining in the Northern Cumberlands: scoping comments still needed*

The scoping hearings are over, but there is time for you to submit written comments to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), and we strongly urge you to do so (see Action Box, below). This is one of our best opportunities ever to protect the very special Cumberland region.

On October 1, the State of Tennessee submitted a petition (under Sec. 522 of the 1977 federal Surface Mining Law), requesting that ridgelines on public lands in the Northern Cumberland Mountains be designated unsuitable for coal surface mining (<http://tn.gov/environment/lumpetition.shtml>; see NL294 ¶1A; NL295 ¶1A). The area covered by the Suitability Petition includes all units of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (Sundquist, Royal Blue, and New River) and the Emory River Conservation Easement Tract adjoining Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area, which was acquired 3 years ago under the “Connecting the Cumberlands” initiative (NL276 ¶1A). These public lands are traversed by the unique Cumberland Trail State Park.

The petition area contains most of the older growth forests that exist in the region as well as a diverse array of habitats and wildlife, some of which is considered rare, threatened, or of special interest, such as the cerulean warbler.

Approval of the State’s petition (OSM’s Alternative 1) would prevent surface mining of coal for 600 ft on each side of all ridgelines, creating a 1,200-foot corridor that encompasses approximately 67,000 acres. This constitutes about 40% of the total North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Conservation Easement Tract.

Not only does the petition area contain some of the most treasured *state* lands, but it constitutes the upper watershed of a unit of our *National* Park System, the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, and the watershed for part of another unit, the Obed Wild & Scenic River.

There is no greater threat to all of these valuable and fragile resources than the surface mining of its extensive and visible ridgelines. Such mining would totally disfigure the scenic views, destroy old-growth deciduous forest, devastate wildlife, including numerous rare and endangered species, and grievously harm the water quality of the Emory and of many lovely streams that eventually feed into the Big South Fork River, the focus of a National Park. The varied aquatic resources of that river include numerous types of mussels, seven of which are on the list of federally endangered species.

TCWP members are frequent users of the Cumberlands, a region they are dedicated to protecting. They hike the Cumberland Trail (for a portion of which TCWP has taken on stewardship) and many other trails

(particularly in the Big South Fork NRA, near Frozen Head, and in the New River area), and they paddle many of the streams. Some of our members are avid photographers, others are dedicated bird watchers, and yet others are amateur or professional botanists or aquatic biologists. All of us treasure the serene beauty and the great biological diversity of the Cumberlands in their natural state.

We believe that OSM should generate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) rather than a simple Environmental Assessment (EA), because there are so many significant factors that deserve to be adequately addressed. The impact of surface mining needs to be assessed on visual disfigurement, destruction of old forest habitat, damage to water quality, diminution of biological diversity, and threats to rare and endangered species.

Additionally, the EIS should address the adverse economic impacts of stripmining in this area that has such a great tourist potential in its unspoiled state. Tourists come here to enjoy beauty, peace, and solitude, as well as to participate in outdoor recreation such as hiking, paddling, hunting, fishing, and camping. According to a 2005 National Park Service report, recreational activities in the Big South Fork NRA represented an annual \$10-\$16 million economic benefit to the region. A more general report by U.T. shows that every dollar invested in state parks generates approximately \$17 dollars of economic benefit to nearby communities.

OSM has identified three possible alternatives that the combined PED/EIS would evaluate (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-02-08/pdf/2011-2765.pdf>):

- Alternative 1—Designate the entire petition area as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations.
- Alternative 2—Not designate any of the area as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations.
- Alternative 3—Designate parts of the petition area as unsuitable for all or certain types of surface coal mining operations.

Several TCWP members were among about 25 people presenting testimony at the scoping hearing in Oak Ridge, where there was an overwhelming (5:1) preference for Alternative 1. At La Follette, too, supporters outnumbered opponents (the ratio was about 3:1). At Huntsville, however, 11 of 14 commenters *opposed* the proposal. Be sure to let OSM hear from YOU by April 14!

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell OSM that you support Alternative 1 (designation of the entire petition area). Let them know what natural qualities of the petition area are important to you. Urge them to generate an EIS to study the numerous factors we have outlined, including esthetic, ecological, recreational, and economic ones. Written comments will be accepted until April 14, 2011, 5:00 p.m. (EDT). They may be submitted via e-mail to TNLUM@osmre.gov or mailed or hand delivered to the Office of Surface Mining, Field Office Director, Attn:

Earl D. Bandy Jr., John J. Duncan Federal Building, 710
Locust Street, Second Floor, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

1B. *Proposed oil & gas regulations
are generally good
but need to address fracking*

[We get another opportunity. *A hearing on TDEC's proposed oil & gas regulations was held Feb. 22, and the deadline for written comments was March 1. There were several TCWP comments. -- Now we get another opportunity. Because of Governor Haslam's 45 day suspension of rules at the beginning of his term, the comment period has been extended. Comments already received will be considered, along with all comments sent in before May 9. There will also be another public hearing, on April 28 at Knoxville (details below). These deadline extensions also allow us to provide Newsletter coverage of the issues.]*

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has proposed changes in regulations pertaining to the extraction of oil and natural gas – activities that are greatly on the increase, particularly on the Cumberland Plateau. These regulations cover a large variety of issues, such as location of wells, methods of extraction, erosion protection, discharges from wells, abandoning and plugging wells, fees and bonds, etc. For the most part, the changes represent excellent improvements in environmental protection (visit www.tennessee.gov/environment →Permitting →Public notices →Water Pollution Control). Examples of praiseworthy changes:

- required distance of pits from stream or lake is expanded from 25 ft to 100 ft;
- differences between a producing and an abandoned well are more clearly defined;
- requirements for erosion prevention are made more specific;
- prohibition on discharges from pits and facilities is clarified.

The proposed regulations, however, are silent on procedures that apply specifically to “fracking” (hydraulic fracture), the method increasingly used for the recovery of natural gas. While it is true that many of the more stringent regulations presently being proposed (e.g., those addressing well location, erosion control, etc.) would also apply to natural-gas extraction, the special procedures used in fracking have the potential of causing serious damage to water quality, water supply, and land features, and must be carefully regulated.

[The following information is based on testimony by Annetta Watson.]

The hydraulic fracture process pressure-injects various fluids into rock formations below ground, thereby shattering the strata and forcing gas and oil contained within the formation into collection systems that bring them to the surface. The fluids commonly used by the oil and gas industry for injection into formations include

diesel fuel, water containing proprietary compounds not revealed to the public or to regulatory authorities, liquid nitrogen, industrial detergents (surfactants), and many others.

In states where fracking is already taking place, it has been reported that propagation of fractures into water-bearing strata resulted in contamination of groundwater and surface water by drilling fluids, drilling muds, and brines. In Tennessee, a further problem is the fact that the target shale beds, including the famous Chattanooga Shale, are radioactive. Not only can the procedure result in major water pollution, but it consumes great amounts of fresh water (for injection), thus impacting streams in the area, and it leaves large “footprints” on the land.

The following suggestions have been made:

- Lessons already learned by other states, e.g., New York, should be incorporated into meaningful regulations.
- Regulations should require operators to fully disclose all extraction methods to be used, including composition of the fracking fluids and gases, the amount and source of water used, and the mode of wastewater disposal.
- Certain areas and geologic formations should be designated as off-limits for oil and gas development. Criteria might include the presence of existing faults and fractures as well as water-bearing strata and stream/river headwaters.
- Baseline and post-fracking monitoring of water resources should be required.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Submit comments, either orally on April 28 at TDEC's Knoxville Field Office on Middlebrook Pike (call Sandra, 583-3967, for details), or in writing by May 9 (address below).

We suggest two parts to your comments

1. Praise and support those proposed regulations that improve protection against environmental damage (examples above).
2. Request that regulations specific to fracking be *added*, and that such regulations ensure protection of ground and surface water, water supply, and area lands (examples above).

Comment address: Division of Water Pollution Control, Oil and Gas Program, TDEC, Attention: Michael Burton, 6th Floor, L & C Annex, 401 Church Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1534; Phone (615)532-0166; FAX (615) 532-0686.

e-mail: Michael.K.Burton@tn.gov Comments must be received by 4:30, CDT on May 9.

1C. *Obed capsules*

- **Obed project wins first place.** Jordan Layne, 6th grader at Wartburg Central Middle School, participated in Tennessee History Day. His project was a display, titled "Obed River: Wild or Dammed?", about the debate surrounding the creation of the OWSR and the successes, failures, and consequences of that debate.

He won first place in his division at East TN History Day, and will advance to the State competition in Nashville. For part of his research, he obtained historic materials from TCWP, and he included the latest TCWP Newsletter in his display, since TCWP was a consequence of the debate. Jordan's faculty Advisor was Debbie Slack, Morgan County Schools.

- **Obed Fund.** Yet another paddling club has generously contributed to TCWP's Obed Fund. The Chota Canoe Club recently donated \$1,000 (see ¶6B, this NL). In September, an equal amount was received from the East Tennessee Whitewater Club (NL295 ¶7E). TCWP established the fund for purchasing land within the authorized boundaries of the Obed Wild & Scenic River, to hold until the National Park Service obtains the money to acquire it. (You, too, can contribute!)

2. TENNESSEE STATE GOVERNMENT -- A NEW YEAR

2A. *Funding conservation-land acquisitions from the Real Estate Transfer Tax: -- GREAT NEWS, but a need to continue our efforts*

Established by an Act passed in 1991, four funds derived from a small portion of Tennessee's Real Estate Transfer tax generate \$15-20 million annually to create local parks, greenways, state parks, wetlands, wild lands, open spaces, wildlife areas, and cleaner water. Several times during recent years, the money from these funds was diverted from its intended purpose and used to balance the State's budget. But in 2010, a mighty battle by the conservation community succeeded in restoring the funds.

This year, we have a new governor, a greatly changed General Assembly, and a probably more difficult financial situation. The GREAT news is that Gov. Haslam has included all four of the Real Estate Transfer Funds, totaling \$16,514,700, in his proposed FY 2011-12 Tennessee State Budget! He deserves our sincerest thanks.

Now, it's essential for us to make sure that the General Assembly keeps these funds in their final, approved budget. We must contact our representatives in the State House and Senate (many of whom are new) to let them know of the major importance of the Real Estate Transfer Funds for keeping our state green and beautiful. Some talking points:

- The funds represent less than 1/10 of 1% of Tennessee's budget. Our homeland is worth more than this tiny amount. We want our children to inherit this beautiful land.
- The Legislature intended these funds to be used for conservation – not for balancing the budget.

- A major part of Tennessee's income comes from tourism, and tourists come to see the lands (state parks and natural areas, etc) that these funds have protected. The funds thus help our economic future.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Thank Gov. Haslam (see p.2) for his wise leadership in including the conservation funds in his budget.
- (2) Contact your state representative and senator (see Political Guide, also available on SB www.tcwp.org) to let them know why these funds must be kept in the final, approved budget, to be used for their dedicated purpose.

2B. *The Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC) must be adequately funded*

Tennessee's land, water, and air are protected by state laws that are enforced by TDEC. This oversight is essential to the maintenance of public health and the protection of our valuable and irreplaceable natural resources, which in turn are the mainstay of our economy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your state legislators (see Political Guide), why TDEC needs to be adequately funded to enforce laws and regulations that protect our air, land, and water.

2C. *TDEC outreach*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

On February 18, newly appointed Commissioner Robert Martineau and continuing Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan enjoyed a brown-bag lunch in a large conference room with representatives of groups whose primary focus is on conservation, the environment, or sustainability.

In his welcoming remarks, Commissioner Martineau referenced his experience as a lawyer in many environmental cases. He compared his first several weeks on the job to getting a drink from a fire hose: a lot of information to take in.

The affable commissioner is very concerned with budget issues and with providing good customer service. These are top priorities of the governor. He relayed that Governor Haslam had convened a meeting of TDEC staffers, made remarks, and answered questions. According to veteran TDEC staff, this is the first time a governor has done that.

Commissioner Martineau anticipates (correctly, one might observe) that many of us will be asking for meetings over the next several months to discuss specific issues, and he welcomes that.

The various representatives introduced themselves, their organizations, and interests. Attendees included Conservation Fund's Rex Boner, National Park Conservation Association's Don Barger, Lindquist Environmental Appalachian Fund's Dawn Coppock, Sierra Club's Bill Terry, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy's John Noel, Tennessee Clean Water Network's Renee

Hoyos, The Nature Conservancy's Gina Hancock, Tennessee Conservation Voters lobbyist Stewart Clifton, TN Environmental Council's John McFadden and Don Saffer, Land Trust's Jeanne Nelson, TN Ornithological Society's Melinda Welton, TN Parks and Greenways Foundation's Kathleen Williams, TN Scenic Rivers Association's Daniel Boone and Anne Tidwell, and others.

It's heartening that the Commissioner held such a meeting, and it was a morale booster to be in a room with people having so much expertise and passion for the environmental challenges that Tennessee faces. One hopes that many productive relationships were launched.

2D. *Leadership appointments in TDEC*

On March 1, TDEC Commissioner Martineau announced the appointment of Brock Hill as Deputy Commissioner for Parks and Conservation. Mr. Hill is known to several of us as County Mayor of Cumberland County, a position that he held for 16 years (1994-2010). In that capacity, one of his areas of special interests was water-resource planning, specifically, increasing water supply to a county that is located essentially at the top of watersheds (the Obed and the Caney Fork). Brock Hill has been a long-time board member for the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation and an Advisor to Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation.

Two carry-overs from the previous administration will report to Brock Hill. They are Assistant Commissioners Mike Carlton and Andy Lyon.

2E. *Bills in the 107th General Assembly*

The list of bills pertinent to environmental issues is a long one. The member organizations of Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV), of which TCWP is one, have identified priority issues, on the basis of which TCV selects a shorter list of Key Bills. Even the short list contains more than 30 bills on issues such as rock harvesting, ATVs, and other subjects of interest to TCWP members. Here are just three of them. The full lists may be viewed at <http://tnconservationvoters.org/>; or contact tcved@bellsouth.net.

Prohibition on surface mining at specified elevation levels. SB.0577 (also, 0578, 2005), E. Stewart/ HB.0291(also, 0353), McDonald

Prohibits surface coal mining operations that will disturb ridgelines above 2,000 feet elevation above sea level. Senate Status: Senate Environment, Conservation & Tourism, hearings 03/23/2011. House Status: Referred to House General Subcommittee of Conservation and Environment, hearings 03/22/2011.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact members of these two committees, listed in NL295 ¶2D; (also see Political Guide, available on www.tcwp.org) to express strong support for this bill, which would protect our Cumberland mountains and streams.

Tennessee Beverage Container Recycling Refunds Act. SB. 337, Summerville/HB.289, McDonald. Scheduled for committee hearing March 16.

Creates a deposit system for the recycling of certain beverage containers. For detailed information, visit <http://www.tnbottlebill.org> and click "Legislation" and "Bottle Bill Basics" in the top left corner. For updates, contact margedavis@comcast.net

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Sen. McNally, one of the bill's three Senate sponsors (sen.randy.mcnelly@capitol.tn.gov) to tell him of your support for the bill.

Construction of Campbell County Lighthouse Lodge. SJR.0086, Yager. Introduced in Senate, 2/17/2011 **[It's baaaaaack!]**

Requests approval from TVA for construction of Campbell County Lighthouse Lodge and Convention Center.

2F. *State Natural Areas:*

a successful program

In the early years after it was founded, TCWP played a significant role in the passage of several bills aiming to protect Tennessee's natural resources. Probably the most successful of these has been the Natural Areas Preservation Act of 1971 (T.C.A. 11-14-101).

Forty years later, the Tennessee Natural Areas Program includes 81 areas that, in aggregate, cover 120,361.5 acres. Seven of them are less than 20 acres in size, but five are each larger than 10,000 acres (Meeman Shelby 11,000; Frozen Head 15,150; Savage Gulf 15,590; Fall Creek Falls 16,181; Reelfoot Lake 18,000). For a listing and location map, visit <http://tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/>

In addition, the Program administers the Natural Areas Registry, which develops non-binding voluntary agreements with private and public landowners to protect sites of ecological importance. There are presently over 30 such Registered State Natural Areas, including the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren (see www.tcwp.org). The Natural Areas Manager in TDEC is Brian Bowen, brian.bowen@tn.

3. NATIONAL and other FORESTS

3A. *Major National Forest planning needs our input*

The US Forest Service (USFS) manages 155 national forests and 20 national grasslands that, in aggregate, cover over 190 million acres in 42 states and Puerto Rico. In all, our national forests and grasslands provide habitat for more than 5,000 species of fish and wildlife and more than 10,000 plant species.

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires an agency-wide forest-planning rule that provides

the blueprint for the management plans developed by individual Forests every 15 years or so. Two Bush Administration rules were thrown out in court, and the agency is still operating under the 1982 rule. The Obama Administration has now drafted a new forest-planning rule (www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule) that, (a) upholds certain accepted goals of forest management from the 1982 rule (e.g., maintaining healthy wildlife populations, preserving the diversity of forest plant life), and (b) sets new goals tailored to new 21st-century problems. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack says the new draft "provides a far more flexible and adaptive approach" than the 1982 rule. Analyses by knowledgeable groups (e.g., the Wilderness Society, Defenders of Wildlife) indicate that the draft rule has some very good, but also some dangerously weak, features.

The rule's good features.

- It encourages adapting policies to the pressures of climate change and disease.
- It requires the agency to use the best available science in its decision-making process.
- It recommends involving the public as deeply as possible in forest planning.

The rule's weaknesses

- It does not clearly obligate local forest managers to meet the goals set forth in the rule (i.e., flexibility without consistent guidance). The risk is that local managers may be under pressure from politics or industry and therefore make decisions not based on facts and science.
- It rolls back existing safeguards for wildlife conservation and habitat conservation by no longer *requiring* the USFS to maintain healthy and sustainable fish and wildlife populations for every species in our national forests (e.g., by allowing individual forest managers the discretion to "give up" on protecting some needy species without facing accountability to the public).
- It lacks enforceable management standards to protect and restore streams, rivers and watersheds. It does not include buffer zones to limit some activities along streams and lakes

You can read the proposed rule in its entirety in the Federal Register, vol.76, No.30, pp.8480-8528, February 14, 2011; or visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule> for information. Numerous public forums are planned; the one for the Southern Region will be at Asheville on April 4 (see above website). On March 28, 2-5 PM, the Cherokee National Forest is hosting a Video Teleconference presentation on the proposed rule, followed by a question-and-answer session. It will be held at the Forest Supervisor's Office, 2800 Ocoee Street, N., Cleveland, TN 37320.

agement standards for protecting and restoring streams and watersheds. Monitoring protocols and clear accountability measures are needed.

Submit comments at <http://www.govcomments.com/> or <http://www.regulations.gov/>. Alternatively, write to Forest Service Planning DEIS, c/o Bear West Company, 132 E 500 S, Bountiful, UT 84010; or fax to 801-397-1605. Identify your written comments by including "planning rule" on the cover sheet or the first page.

3B. *Cherokee National Forest: Corridor-K planning continues*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDoT) will host two public meetings later this month on Corridor K, the oft-proposed road project that addresses Hwy. 64, where it travels along the Ocoee River. The public is encouraged to attend one of these meetings (details below), held as part of the NEPA process, to learn more about the project, review materials, ask questions and share ideas with the project team. A draft EIS will be published in the summer of 2012.

According to TDoT, six options are recommended for further analysis in the EIS. Four of these involve new construction of major segments of the road through the Cherokee National Forest.

WaysSouth, a broad-based coalition of organizations with interest in responsible transportation in Appalachia, supports Alternative 2 and/or 2a. These are variations on the theme of making improvements to the current Hwy 64 through the Gorge. Additionally, comments should urge TDoT to upgrade some of the local roads, such as Hwy 68 and Hwy 30. These improvements would provide a backup route across the mountains should there be a repeat of last year's rockslide that closed Hwy 64. The additional benefit of upgrading these roads would be the added safety for local traffic in the region.

The meetings will be held Monday, March 28, 5-8 p.m. at Copper Basin High School Gymnasium in Copper Hill, and Tuesday, March 29, 5-8 p.m. at the Polk County High School Cafeteria in Benton. The meetings will have an open house format so one may stop in any time between 5 and 8 p.m. A court reporter will be available to take verbal comments. Each meeting will provide the same materials and information.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Comments can be made at the meetings or by April 30 to Mr. Chester Sutherland, Chester.Sutherland@tn.gov, Project Management Division, TDoT Region 2, P.O. Box 22368, Chattanooga, TN 37422.

3C. *Forests offset carbon emissions, but this capacity is threatened*

A fact sheet based on recent government studies (<http://www.fs.fed.us/rmrs/docs/forest-carbon/factsheet.pdf>) provides interesting information on the extent

WHAT YOU CAN DO: By May 16, support the good features of the draft, but urge the USFS strengthen the rule. It is important to include *mandatory* wildlife sustainability standards and to create *enforceable* man-

to which forests are offsetting global-warming carbon emission, but also discusses how global warming will decrease this capacity.

Our Nation's forests cover ~797 million acres, of which the majority are in private ownership (about 22% of forestland is National Forest, and 16% other public forests). Currently, forests in the USA take up more carbon via photosynthesis and store it in living trees and soil than they release through decay and respiration, i.e., they are carbon "sinks." The average amount of carbon stored per acre varies regionally and by type of forest. Thus, the wet coniferous forests of the Pacific Northwest have the highest average carbon per acre, and the arid forests of the desert southwest have the lowest. National forests contain an average of 22.8% more carbon per forested acre than private land, but private forestlands store more *total* carbon than National Forests because they make up a much larger total area (they dominate the Eastern US).

Currently, the nation's forests sequester an estimated 41.4 billion metric tons of carbon, enough to offset roughly 11% of the country's annual industrial greenhouse-gas emissions. Several factors, however, are likely to reduce the amount of carbon stored in our forests, e.g., the loss of private forest lands in the East to development. But the major threat comes from global warming. Warmer summers, changing precipitation patterns and a thinning snow pack are already "aridifying" the carbon-rich Western forests; and climate changes are greatly exacerbating tree mortality from bark beetle epidemics.

3D. *Georgia Pacific is not buying from pine-conversion harvests*

Many commercial lumber supplies and paper goods are derived from pine plantations, such as the ones many of us have seen on timber company properties in the Cumberlands. The planting of these pine monocultures on lands that are cleared of their natural hardwood forests has been named pine conversion. More than 40 million acres of natural forests across the South have been converted to pine plantations, and only 2% of the region's woodlands are protected.

Following lengthy discussions with NRDC and other environmental groups, Georgia-Pacific (G-P), one of the world's largest manufacturers of plywood, building supplies, and fiber products (paper towels, paper cups), announced a new policy in November. This policy has two main components: (a) G-P will stop using timber harvested from 600,000 acres of endangered and environmentally sensitive forests within the mid-Atlantic Coastal Eco-Region (this involves 11 endangered forests or special areas in SC, NC, and southeastern VA); (b) on ~90 million acres across the Cumberland Plateau and the South, G-P will not purchase pine from new plantations that replace natural hardwood forests, or from plantations in which the hardwood forests were cleared after 2008 and converted to pine.

This is a non-binding policy, involving no penalties and no concrete plan for enforcement. The company has, however, promised to provide annual updates to the environmental groups.

So far, G-P is the only forest-products company working proactively with environmental groups and scientists, but NRDC hopes to convince other companies to follow G-P's lead.

4. IN THE NAME OF DEFICIT REDUCTION

4A. *In the name of deficit reduction: the slaughter of environmental protections*

[Information from League of Conservation Voters]

In fashioning the Continuing Resolution, HR.1, House Republicans had vowed to cut \$62 billion from FY2011 spending. A huge number of provisions that made (or almost made) their way into HR.1, however, have no bearing on the deficit. Here we list only a small sample, and even that is infinitely depressing. It includes many of the issues we have fought for. (For additional attacks by HR.1, see ¶4B and ¶4C, below). So far, the Senate has not accepted HR.1.

- The Antiquities Act. An amendment offered by Dean Heller (R-NV) would have eliminated the power of the President to designate new national monuments (such as Grand Staircase/Escalante in Utah). It was barely rejected (209:213); there were no Tennessee Republicans among those voting to reject.
- Clean Water Safeguards. An amendment offered by David McKinley (R-WV), and adopted (240:182), prevents the EPA from continuing to use its authority (used only very rarely, for truly environmentally destructive projects) to prohibit or restrict permits that would have an "unacceptable adverse effect" on water, fish, and wildlife.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) offered an amendment to cut by 90% the House spending bill's already *minimal* allocation for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), (Note that the LWCF is money already "in the bank" from offshore oil drilling royalties.) The Lummis amendment was barely rejected (213:216).
- Mountaintop Removal Mining. An amendment by Morgan Griffith (R-VA), and adopted (235:185), blocks EPA policies designed to ensure that mountaintop removal coal mining does not fill streams with mining waste. This may undo EPA's veto of the Spruce No.1 Mine (NL295 ¶5A).
- Coal ash regulation. An amendment by David McKinley (R-WV), and adopted (239:183), would prevent

EPA from regulating coal ash as a hazardous waste under Subtitle C.

- Off-Road Vehicles in National Forests. An amendment by Wally Herger (R-CA) and adopted (227:197), halts implementation of off-road vehicle management plans on our national forests.

4B. *HR.1 attacks the*

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Among the non-deficit-related measures proposed by Republican House members for the Continuing Resolution (HR.1) is the removal from ESA protection of gray wolves in the Northern Rockies and for salmon throughout California. The ESA has long been a target for attack by developers and certain industries.

If these amendments survive into the final law, it will mark the first time since the Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973 that a threatened or endangered species was de-listed by politicians instead of by wildlife scientists. (The ESA states that delisting decisions are to be made by wildlife experts in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.) This would set a dangerous precedent for other imperiled species that are “politically unpopular,” or that might “inconvenience” certain commercial or industrial interests.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Call or e-mail; your senators – especially Sen. Alexander, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, which has jurisdiction over the ESA. Oppose, in your own passionate words, any legislation that would undermine strong protections for wolves and other endangered species. Tell the senators: A budget bill is no place to make life-and-death policy decisions for our nation's wildlife!

4C. *Ill-advised penny pinching*

While many of the attacks against environmental safeguards (examples in ¶4A, ¶4B, above) would not serve to reduce the deficit (the avowed purposed of HR.1), a few represent very ill-advised penny pinching. Many of the anti-EPA measures (¶5A, below) are in that class. Here are a few other examples.

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. US contributions to the IPCC would be eliminated.
- Scientific research. Funding for DOE's Office of Science would be cut by \$1.1 billion. Among the most severely affected National Labs would be Argonne and Fermi Lab with an overall 40% budget cut. NIH was cut by \$1 billion.
- Agriculture conservation programs. Cuts to these programs would be more than 50% higher than the non-defense average cut. They would eliminate the 2008 Farm Bill's hard-won funds that promote highly popular and successful conservation programs, such as re-

storing habitat for endangered species and reversing the loss of wetlands.

5. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES

5A. *The Congressional vendetta against EPA.*

Special focus on climate change

[With information from UCS, EDF, LCV, *Politico*]

For one thing, HR.1, would slash EPA's budget by 30% (as compared to the non-defense *average* cut of 14%). And that's only a start.

A bill by Sen. Barrasso (R-WY) would permanently block the EPA *AND* every other federal agency from using the Clean Air Act *AND* any other environmental law (NEPA, ESA, Clean Water Act) to do *ANYTHING* about reducing America's climate pollution. It would also block states from regulating greenhouse gases (GHGs). A somewhat similar, but less broad, bill is sponsored by Sen. Inhofe (R-OK) and Rep. Fred Upton (R-CA). (Upton, who has received nearly \$250,000 in campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry, has called the EPA “a regulatory train-wreck.”) The claim is that GHG regulations hinder job creation.

House Republicans don't much believe that controllable human activities influence climate. Speaker John Boehner said: "...Every time we exhale, we exhale carbon dioxide. Every cow in the world, you know, when they do what they do, you've got more carbon dioxide." Ralph Hall (R-TX), the new chair of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, claims there is a “dishonest undercurrent” in climate science, and announced plans to search for what he calls the “real facts” on global warming — ignoring the reams of climate science data that the committee has already reviewed in recent years. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), vice chair of the same committee, has called climate change a “massive international scientific fraud.” Leadership and members of the committee questioned the reality of climate change at a hearing at which Dr. John Holden, director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, testified on the Administration's proposed science funding.

Sadly, while this is an overwhelmingly Republican effort, it is not free of some Democratic complicity. A House bill by Upton (R-MI) and Whitfield (R-KY) that puts a freeze on EPA's regulatory agenda for polluters like power plants and petroleum refineries may collect as many as a dozen Democratic co-sponsors, several from coal states. To lure Democrats from the corn belt, the bill contains nothing detrimental to production of corn ethanol (which, incidentally, does not reduce GHGs – see Resources in ¶7, this NL). In the Senate, a companion bill by Inhofe (R-OK) may attract coal- and oil-state senators like Manchin (D-WV) and Landrieu (D-LA) as co-sponsors.

In the meantime, the world keeps getting warmer. There has been a 38% increase of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration since the industrial revolution, and the concentration of CO₂ in the earth's atmosphere is now 389 ppm. Last year (2010) was the hottest year on record (tied with 1998), in which at least 18 countries set *all-time* heat records.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Our senators and representatives (addresses on p.2) need to be told that EPA must not be hampered in enforcing any aspect of our successful *Clean Air Act*, be it GHGs or other toxics (see also ¶5B). This landmark law protects the health of our people and of our planet. Pinching pennies from EPA will end up *costing us* much more in healthcare, job creation, productivity, and in the growth of innovative, globally competitive technologies.

5B. *Support EPA's*

"Mercury and Air Toxics" rule!

[Information from EDF Action Fund]

Every year, our coal-fired power plants emit 386,000 tons of hazardous air pollution, including 72% of America's toxic mercury air emissions and 76% of America's acid gas emissions. Although the Clean Air Act specifically called on EPA to limit these pollutants (which cause numerous significant threats to health), this is the first time the agency has had the courage to make a concrete proposal for doing so. This proposal is strongly supported by groups such as the American Lung Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics. They know full well that air pollution is a major contributor to the 120,000 cases of childhood asthma each year.

Now, more than ever, EPA needs our support, as Congress is pulling out all stops to "reign in" the agency (¶5A above). The new standard will save lives and protect millions of Americans from preventable disease. And the economic benefits are likely to outweigh the costs by up to 13:1, resulting in total health and economic benefits of an estimated \$140 billion annually.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Submit brief comments thanking EPA for setting a strong Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule, which will save lives and protect against preventable disease.

Introduce your comments by referring to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0044 (NSPS action)□ and Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234 (NESHAP action).

You can send your message by either of these methods:

- (a) <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow instructions for submitting comments.
- (b) e-mail to ow-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Include the docket No. (see above) in the subject line.

5C. *Wilderness in great trouble in the new Congress*

Rob Bishop (R-UT) the new chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources

Committee, has vowed to "use whatever mechanism is possible" to block BLM's new "Wild Lands Policy," announced in December by Sec. Salazar (NL295 ¶5C). That new policy reverses the Bush era "No More Wilderness" edict under which BLM was blocked from identifying Wilderness Study Areas, huge acreages were auctioned off for oil and gas leasing, and areas that clearly qualified for Wilderness became vulnerable to off-road vehicle abuse.

The new majority membership of the House Natural Resources Committee subscribes to the view that there is "too much wilderness ... and that "the federal government continues to tell us what we can do with our land." Among other things, that makes for poor prospects for the 20 bills that languished in the last Congress, which would have protected four million acres of wildlands (including the Cherokee NF Wilderness bill).

5D. *The granddaddy of them all: the REINS Act*

[Information from OMB Watch, 3/17/11]

HR.10, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act, would force each new major regulation to go through a congressional approval process, subjecting it to political infighting, special interest influence, and legislative gridlock. If either house of Congress fails to approve the major rule in a narrow 70-day window, the rule will cease to exist.

This bill, which is an affront to separation of powers, would delay and probably undo critical safeguards that protect our civil rights, environment, food, children's toys, workplaces, health care, and economy. The bill would also further empower corporate lobbyists and their allies in Congress to ignore science and focus on politicking when it comes to the development of our public protections.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Congressman and senators (address p. 2) to vigorously oppose the REINS Act, HR.10.

6. TCWP NEWS

6A. *Progress in archiving*

TCWP's Newsletter collection

In December, the University of Tennessee's Digital Library Initiative (DLI) approved TCWP's proposal to archive a digital, searchable collection of our Newsletters, going back to 1966 and continuing into the future. Considerable progress toward that goal has since been made. Copies have been located of almost all the 169 issues that exist on paper only. All 27 of those for which only a single copy is available have been scanned into PDF format. For an additional 17 issues, OCR versions and formatting have also been achieved.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Can you locate the following missing issues: NL165, NL169?
2. We need volunteer to help with the scanning (you'll be trained at UT with the latest equipment). Contact Sandra Goss (Sandra@sandrakgoss.com, or 865-583-3967).

6B. *Chota donates to TCWP and other organizations in recognition of past members' service*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

In November 2010, the Chota membership overwhelming approved donations to three worthy organizations that promote conservation and/or improve paddling opportunities. Receiving \$1,000 each were 1) TCWP, 2) American Whitewater, and 3) Legacy Parks Foundation. Chota's membership made these donations in recognition of three individuals who have contributed many hours to Chota Canoe Club in the past. Many thanks go to:

- Anne Phillips - One of Chota's early founders during the 70's, who provided endless support of Chota for over 35 years
- Hugh Worthy - One of Chota's early school leaders during the early 80's, who provided endless support of Chota for over 30 years
- Ralph Brooks - One of Chota's sustained supporters during the 90's, major influence towards keeping the Littler River Gauge at Townsend functional

TCWP is grateful to Chota for their generous donation and to Anne's, Hugh's, and Ralph's dedication and service.

6C. *Upcoming activities*

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

Outing to Cummins Falls – Saturday, April 2

Cummins Falls, located in Jackson County a few miles north of Cookeville, is the eighth-largest waterfall in the state and the largest privately owned waterfall in Tennessee. The Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation has mounted a campaign to purchase it and make it a public state park or natural area. On April 2, TCWP will join TPGF's monthly First Saturday hike—to begin at 11 a.m. Eastern time—to see the falls.

This hike will be led by the Cumberland Harpeth Audubon Society and will feature migratory bird watching. It is rated moderate to strenuous and will last approximately two to three hours.

We will meet for carpooling at 8:45 a.m. in the Books-A-Million shopping center in Oak Ridge (at the front end of the parking lot, along South Illinois Avenue near Waffle House. A second carpooling stop will be made at the Shoney's in Harriman (I-40 exit 347) at 9:15 a.m. Bring waterproof boots or wading shoes, a day pack with water and lunch or a snack, and a change of clothes in case you should get wet.

Wildflower Greenway Garlic Mustard Pull and Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 9

The Greenway behind Oak Ridge's Rolling Hills Apartments (formerly called the Garden Apartments) is one of the best wildflower trails in Anderson County, but it is threatened by garlic mustard, a very invasive exotic that crowds out native plants. TCWP and Greenways Oak Ridge have been having some success in recent years in ridding the trail of this harmful plant. Volunteers can help with this effort on April 9 and also enjoy a wildflower walk with TCWP board member and plant ecologist Larry Pounds.

We will meet at 10 a.m. at the rear parking lot (near the woods) behind 101-135 West Vanderbilt Drive. Wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes, and bring water, food/snacks, and a digging spike or similar tool if you own one.

“Cumberland Odyssey” slide presentation - Monday, April 18

Oak Ridge nature photographer Bill Campbell, who took the photographs for the new book *Cumberland Odyssey: A Journal in Pictures and Words along Tennessee's Cumberland Trail and Plateau*, will present a slide show and talk about his photos of the Cumberland Trail at 7 p.m. in the Craft Room at the Oak Ridge Civic Center.

Cumberland Odyssey (featuring text by David Brill) showcases the area's streams, waterfalls, birds, and fauna and reflects on the completion of the Cumberland Trail. Bill Campbell's images have appeared in numerous textbooks, calendars, and magazines. He is the author of *The Smoky Mountains Photographer's Guide*.

Black Mountain hike - Saturday, May 15

Save the date! Following Bill Campbell's Cumberland Trail slide presentation in April, Tennessee State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath will lead a hike at Black Mountain, the midpoint of the Cumberland Trail and the home of several rare native plants. The hike, which is rated easy to moderate, will begin at 10 a.m. Eastern time.

We will meet for carpooling at 9 a.m. in the Books-A-Million shopping center in Oak Ridge (at the front end of the parking lot, along South Illinois Avenue near Waffle House. A second carpooling stop will be made at the Shoney's in Harriman (I-40 exit 347) at 9:30 a.m. Those not carpooling can meet at the Black Mountain parking area at 10 a.m. Bring a lunch or snack and water, and wear sturdy shoes.

Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at 865-583-3967.

6D. *From the Executive Director*

[By Sandra K. Goss]

The past several weeks have been busy ones, working on Tennessee Oil and Gas Regulations, the Lands Unsuitable Petition for the Northern Cumberlands, and land acquisition in the Obed Wild and Scenic River

Regular readers know that one of the top, if not THE top, issues for TCWP is completion of the Obed WSR. Approximately 1,000 acres, roughly one-fifth of the entire authorized park, remain in private hands. This land is vulnerable to development, which would spoil the primitive beauty of the park. TCWP has identified several tracts that are critical to the river, and developed strategies to get these properties safely into conservation-minded or public ownership. Look for positive news on this issue in our next newsletter.

The Lands Unsuitable Petition, about which there is more complete news at ¶1A this NL, is the most exciting opportunity in recent months to affect positively the continued existence of the beautiful Cumberland Mountains. This first step of a long process needs ALL of us to send in our scoping comments by April 14. Working together to preserve the ridgelines of the North Cumberlands from strip mining is a must. It's a privilege to be involved in work that will have a lasting impact on the viewshed and watersheds, the forests and varied habitats.

The Oil and Gas Regulations (¶1B, this NL) are subject to a public hearing in April, with comment deadline in early May. This is a challenging issue with complex rules and enforcement. TCWP has been working with several sister groups to pool our knowledge and energies for the best possible set of rules.

Like so much of our work, these projects involve weeks, and, in the case of the Lands Unsuitable Petition, months of concentrated effort. This includes analyses, fact finding, conference calls, public meetings, and coordinated outreach efforts.

Over the next several weeks, we'll be issuing e-mail alerts about these topics and about hot legislative issues. Please, sign up to receive our alerts, and then forward them to your friends. Every available voice is needed to communicate to our elected and appointed officials.

If you have questions or need more information, call or e-mail me (865-583-3967, or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com). I love to hear from members! -- Sandra

6E. *Thanks to our volunteers*

[With contributions from Sandra Goss]

Tip of the hat and sincere thanks to the many folks who keep the TCWP train on the tracks:

- Carol Grametbauer, for once again compiling and producing our annual Political Guide and for her regular contributions to the Newsletter.
- Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen, for hosting our successful Holiday Party
- Jan Lyons, Carol Grametbauer, Jimmy Groton, Charlie Klabunde, Annetta Watson, Warren Webb, for their

invaluable assistance in mounting two events: the screening of Gasland and the upcoming presentation by Dr. Campbell.

- Cindy Kendrick, for her informed work on Oil and Gas regulations.
- Jimmy Groton, Charlie Klabunde, Lee Russell, and Mark Bevelhimer for making major progress toward the archiving of past issues of TCWP Newsletters.
- Jimmy, Lee, Cindy, Sandra, Susan Donnelly, Roger Macklin, David Reister, Brian Paddock, Mary Mastin, Annetta Watson, and others. for presenting testimony at the LUMP hearings.
- Annetta, David Reister, Brian Paddock, for presenting testimony at the hearings on oil & gas regulations.
- Annetta, Bob Luxmoore, Jimmy, Sandra, and TCWP supporter Melinda Ward, for testifying at the Heraeus permit hearings
- Lee, for her preparation of an article for *Visions* magazine.
- Jimmy, Larry Pounds, and Tim Bigelow for organizing workdays on the Cumberland Trail and Cedar Barren.
- Lee Russell, for unparalleled skill and effort that go into our widely acclaimed Newsletter.
- Charlie Klabunde, Frank Hensley, Marion Burger, Carol Grametbauer, Jean Bangham, for their help putting out the Newsletter to our snail-mail subscribers.
- Our wonderful Board of Directors. for consistent, smart, and dedicated leadership of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning.

6F. *Recent activities*

Whites Creek Trail workday – Saturday, January 22

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

TCWP volunteers coordinated with TVA staff for a trail maintenance work day at TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area on Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea County. Six volunteers helped clear downed trees and remove brush from the trail. TCWP has partnered with TVA since 1984 to enhance and protect natural resources at Whites Creek SWA and other places throughout East Tennessee as part of our ongoing stewardship efforts.

'Gasland' documentary showings - Thursday, Feb. 24

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

Following TDEC's February 22 hearing on Tennessee oil and gas regulations (with a comment period then extending through March 1), TCWP offered the public the opportunity to learn more about hydrofracking and to submit comments to the state about its use. About 30 people attended two screenings at the Oak Ridge Civic Center of the award-winning documentary "Gasland," which focuses on communities in the United States that have been impacted by natural gas drilling, and specifically by hydrofracking.

Alley Ford Cumberland Trail workday – Sat. Feb. 26

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

TCWP volunteers coordinated with National Park Service staff for a trail maintenance work day on the Alley Ford segment of the Cumberland Trail at the Obed Wild and Scenic River in Morgan County. Twenty-eight volunteers helped clear downed trees, clean out water bars, and remove brush from the trail. Volunteers included teachers and students from Oak Ridge High School, who got to learn first-hand about the unique natural resources of the Obed. TCWP adopted this 2.5-mile section of the Cumberland Trail in 1998 as part of our ongoing stewardship efforts.

Spring Cedar Barren cleanup – Saturday, March 5

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

Although terrible weather was predicted, only occasional sprinkles were felt, and eight volunteers put in a good morning's work at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren. The volunteers included two students from Beth Adler's Oak Ridge High School biology class. Small woody invasives were pulled from the central barrens area, including some privets, bush honeysuckle, and multiflora rose with green leaves showing. One pine tree was girdled for later removal, and trash was picked up. The group enjoyed a pizza lunch after the work session.

6G. *TCWP president**speaks to paddling club*

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

Chota Canoe and Kayak Club invited TCWP to their monthly meeting, on March 1, to talk about conservation issues of interest to Chota's paddlers. Jimmy Groton gave a brief overview of TCWP's 45-year history and highlighted issues that Chota has helped us to support. Over the past few years Chota has contributed more than \$4,000 to support TCWP actions that protected more than 36 acres of land at the Obed River through purchase and conservation easements.

As a small way of saying thanks for Chota's continued support, TCWP has offered Chota members a special \$10 discount on regular individual and family TCWP memberships. Normally these memberships are \$25 and \$35 per year, respectively. All Chota members need to do to get the discount is to identify themselves as a Chota member on the application form when they mail in their check or pay online at www.tcwp.org.

TCWP also donated items to be used at Chota's discretion as gifts to Chota members, or for the canoe and kayak school auction in June. These items include:

- one print of hummingbirds and rhododendron flowers from a painting by Carol Miller (Cindy Kendrick's sister-in-law),
- one print of a large B&W photograph of the Obed canyon taken by Bill Russell, TCWP co-founder, and
- three TCWP t-shirts of various colors and sizes.

Once again TCWP thanks Chota for inviting us to share our story. When we share TCWP's story it also becomes part of Chota's story because support from groups like Chota has allowed TCWP to continue to protect the unique natural resources of the Cumberland Plateau and mountains, in particular the Obed and Big South Fork Rivers. We greatly appreciate this partnership and hold it in the highest esteem.

7. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- March 28, Cleveland, TN, Presentation and Q&A on Forest rule (see ¶3A, this NL).
- March 29, Benton, meeting on Corridor K (see ¶3B, this NL).
- April 2, Outing with Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation to Cummins Falls (see ¶6C, this NL).
- April 2, 7-11 PM, Tennessee Environmental Council's Green Tie Affair (fund raiser), Nashville. Info and registration at www.tectn.org.
- April 4, Asheville, public forum on Forest rule (see ¶3A, this NL).
- April 9, Wildflower Greenway Garlic Mustard Pull and Wildflower Walk (see ¶6C, this NL).
- April 14, deadline for scoping comments on Lands Unsuitable Petition (see ¶1A, this NL).
- April 18, *Cumberland Odyssey*, slide presentation/talk by photographer Bill Campbell (see ¶6C, this NL).
- April 28, Knoxville, hearings on state oil& gas regs (see ¶1B, this NL).
- April 30, deadline for Corridor K comments (see ¶3B, this NL).
- April 30, Oak Ridge Earth Day celebration, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Oak Ridge Civic Center and Bissell Park. Free celebration of Earth Day in Oak Ridge, featuring local music and food, educational presentations and exhibits (including TCWP's exhibit), green vendors; children's activities including climbing walls, animal encounters, and a fun run. See www.orearthday.org for more information and a calendar of events.
- May 9, deadline for comments on state oil& gas regs (see ¶1B, this NL).
- May 15, TCWP Black Mountain hike with State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath (see ¶6C, this NL).
- May 16, deadline for comments on Forest rule (see ¶3A, this NL)

•• RESOURCES

- While biofuels hold the promise of alleviating climate change, they also pose serious risks of decreasing food supply, accelerating deforestation, and severely impacting water resources. The third of these is addressed in UCS's "Managing the Rising Tide of Biofuels"

(http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/clean_energy/biofuels-and-water.pdf), a brief report that cites 37 fact-filled references. Current U.S. biofuel policy has supported rapid growth in corn ethanol but taken a toll on our water resources—without reducing heat-trapping emissions. Next-generation “cellulosic” biofuels can reduce the impact on water resources and reduce GHG emissions, but only if we make smart choices.

- Information on Oak Ridge Greenbelts is available at this City website:
www.cortn.org/departments/recreationparks/recreation/parks.html
- Nationally prominent nature photographer Byron Jorjorian will exhibit his large-scale color nature images in a show at Nashville's Parthenon museum, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy. The exhibit features locations in Tennessee that have been protected by the Conservancy. It opens March 26 and runs through August 20 (Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.).
- Fracking is the subject of an interesting *National Geographic* article at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/10/101022-energy-marcellus-shale-gas-parks-forests/>
- The Union of Concerned Scientists’ “ABCs of Japan’s Nuclear Reactor Disaster” provides background information on nuclear accidents and explains some of the terms frequently being used in media reports about the crisis.
http://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear_power/nuclear_power_risk/safety/clarifying-japans-nuclear-disaster.html

WHAT IS TCWP?

TCWP (Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning) is dedicated to achieving and perpetuating protection of natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. While our first focus is on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of 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.

TCWP: 130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830

President: Jimmy Groton, 865-483-5799 (h)

Executive Director: Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967.

Sandra@sandrakgoss.com

Newsletter editor: Lee Russell, lianerussell@comcast.net

On the internet: www.tcwp.org

TCWP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for 2011 or NEW MEMBERSHIP

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Our “dues” year is the calendar year, Jan 1 to Dec 31. We greatly appreciate you who renew early in the year. Contributions to TCWP (beyond the first \$10 - nominal valuation of the Newsletter) **are IRS tax-deductible.**

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Charles Klabunde, Treas., TCWP

219 E. Vanderbilt Dr.

Oak Ridge, TN 37830

((Or go online to www.tcwp.org and use a DONATE Button.))

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Comment Deadlines

April 14: OSM — Entire Petition Area = LUMP
see ¶ 1A ... no ridge-top mining ...

May 9: TEDEC — Strengthened Oil & Gas Regs = Good,
But: Need Add Regulation of “Fracking”
see ¶ 1B ... Oil & Gas Regulations ...