



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

The BIG stories

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

11. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	O&G activities in BSF and Obed	National Park Service,	By Aug.16, send comments; attend hearing, if possible.
3A	State land acquisition funds	Gov. Haslam; Kathleen W.	"Thank you!"
5A	Cherokee Wilderness bill	Senators Alexander, Corker	"Thank you for reintroducing! Please get bill enacted!"
5B	Rocky Fork	Senators Alexander, Corker	"Thank you! Please secure funds to complete the purchase!"
7A	Land & Water Conservation Fund	Both senators; Pres. Obama	"These funds are vital! It's <i>not</i> taxpayers' money!"
7B	Nat'l Forest and BLM wilderness	US rep. and senators Nancy Sutley, CEQ	"Strongly oppose HR.1581 "Urge Administration to protect special BLM lands!"
7C	Protecting water quality	Both senators	"Strongly oppose HR.2018 and <i>all</i> dirty water bills!"
7D	Riders on appropriations bills	US rep. and senators	"Oppose riders that shred environmental protections!"
9B	Archiving TCWP NL collection	TCWP	Help with making PDF versions of past Newsletters
9C	TCWP's effectiveness	TCWP	Volunteer to help with little or big jobs. Get our e-alerts.

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Dear Senator Doe
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Dear Gov. Haslam
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To call any Rep or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772
URLs: <http://www.house.gov/lastname/> and <http://lastname.senate.gov/> General contact info: <http://www.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 up-to-date Political Guide, recently mailed to you. You can also access the Guide, and much other information, on TCWP's web site (<http://www.tcwp.org>).

WHAT IS TCWP?

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

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1. OIL & GAS ACTIVITIES at BIG SOUTH FORK & OBED

1A. *Oil & Gas Management Plan for the parks: your comments needed NOW!*

Development of an Oil & Gas Management Plan/EIS for the Big South Fork NRRRA and Obed WSR, which had an aborted start back in 2006 (NL269 ¶1A), is now fully back on track, with 5 hearings July 18-22, and a comment deadline of August 16. Your participation is important.

The need for this Plan is great: there are ~320 wells in the BSFNRRRA and 6 in the Obed WSR. Large oil and gas fields are located adjacent to, and extend into, the BSFNRRRA boundary. The Obed WSR is located in an area where oil and gas occurs at relatively shallow depths. Many of us remember the oil well adjacent to the Clear Creek that blew out in July 2002 causing a long-lasting oil spill into the river and a fire inside the park.

Many of the *existing* O&G operations are already adversely impacting resources and values, and, in view of the recent tremendous upsurge in oil & gas activity in Tennessee, numerous *future* operations are anticipated, perhaps including gas recovery by fracking (which uses vast amounts of water, and possibly chemicals, and yields vast amounts of contaminated waste water – see ¶6B). New wells are likely to be drilled (the National Park Service [NPS] estimates 25 in the next 15-20 years), and existing wells could be amended or serviced to restore or improve production (NPS estimates up to 125).

Federal oil and gas leasing is not authorized in either the BSFNRRRA or the Obed WSR. However, the Act that established the BSFNRRRA, while prohibiting all oil & gas activity in the “gorge,” permits it for *privately*-owned rights in the “adjacent area” (i.e., the plateau portion of the Area), subject to regulations that protect park resources. In the Obed WSR, which has 6 existing privately-owned wells within its boundaries, exploration for any *new* wells is limited to drilling from outside the boundary.

The current draft Plan/EIS, which will provide an action guide for the next 15-20 years, considers three alternatives, A, B, and C. Under Alternative A (No Action), current management would remain in place. The facts that we’ve *already* seen adverse impacts, and that such impacts would be multiplied by anticipated future expansions in o&g activity, should surely rule out the No Action Alternative.

Under Alternative B, NPS would proactively (i.e., for future operations) pursue enforcement of federal 9B regulations (see ¶1C, below), under which an operator must obtain NPS approval for a proposed Plan of Operations before commencing activities, and must post a bond (which is greater than a state bond).

Alternative C (which is the Preferred Alternative) would implement the same type of more proactive management as Alternative B and, *in addition*, would provide protection through designated Special Management Areas (SMAs) where park resources are particularly susceptible to adverse impacts. These could include water quality, ge-

ological features, trails, cliff edges, sensitive viewsheds, historic sites, etc.

It is important to note that the impact of oil and gas operations may well extend *beyond* the primary operations area, e.g., to water quality and to viewsheds. [Sometimes overlooked is the fact that the 100+ miles of accesses to wells in the BSFNRRRA attract ATVs, which inflict yet more damages.] Under Alternative B, this very real possibility is likely to be addressed on a case-by-case basis and often retrospectively. Staff shortages and absence of clear enforcement authority could limit the effectiveness of this approach. Because of this, and in view of the multiplicity of fragile and vulnerable resources within these two parks, Alternative C deserves to be the Preferred one. It would seem far from unreasonable to designate the entire Obed WSR, with its very limited boundaries, a Special Management Area (SMA).

The comment period ends August 16. The Draft Plan/EIS can be downloaded from http://parkplanning.nps.gov/biso_obri_deis. Public meetings on the Plan (where comments can be submitted) will be held in 5 locations as follows:

- July 18, Whitley City, KY
- July 19, Huntsville, TN
- July 20, Oak Ridge High School, TN
- July 21, Jamestown, TN
- July 22, Wartburg, TN

All meetings run from 6-8 PM. For details on meeting locations, or information about submitting comments, consult the above website (and its 'Documents List' link), or call 423-569-9778

WHAT YOU CAN DO: This Plan is of major importance to the future well-being of the BSFNRRRA and Obed WSR, so we urge you to attend one of the meetings and/or submit comments in support of Alternative C. Deadline is August 16. Comment (1) online at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/biso_obri_deis; or to Superintendent, BSFNRRRA, 4564 Leatherwood Rd., Oneida, TN 37841.

1B. *Progress in reclaiming orphaned wells*

In addition to active and potentially active oil and gas wells, at least 53 abandoned ones dot the landscape and pose environmental risks and public safety threats (e.g., from spontaneous release of pressurized well fluids). In January 2010, the BSFNRRRA released an Environmental Assessment for the plugging of at least 45 known orphaned wells and reclamation of associated access roads.

NPS received Stimulus Funds for 39 wells and had plugged 18 of them by the end of May. The contract for plugging an additional 14 wells through TDEC was open for bids. According to Tom Blount, Chief of Resource Management, NPS plans to have all 53 orphaned wells plugged, with associated reclamation completed, by the end of June 2012.

1C. *Federal regulations (9B) for private oils & gas activities involving national parks*

Independent of the specific Management Plan for the BSFNRRRA and Obed WSR (§1A, above), the National Park Service as a whole is undertaking a revision of 9B regulations, more fully described as 36CFR9B. These regulations control activities associated with *nonfederal* mineral interests on (or requiring access across) federal lands or waters and are intended to avoid or minimize harm to park resources and values. [Note that these nationwide 9B regulations are of very special interest to Tennesseans since wells in the BSFNRR and Obed WSR comprise over 50% of *all* the wells on national park property across the whole country! (Oil and gas activities are conducted in only about a dozen parks nationwide.)]

9B regulations require an operator to submit a Plan of Operations before commencing activities. Methods in this Plan must be the least damaging to park resources. However, specific exceptions to this requirement may be authorized (a real loophole).

Like the BSF and Obed Plan (§1A, above), the 9B revisions were stalled for some time, but NPS is moving again on the process and has published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS (75FR82362).

2C. *Discovery of two rare species in Emory headwaters underscores importance of Connecting the Cumberlands initiative*

[Information from TNC's *field notes* and Alex Wyss]

A thriving population of the extremely rare (and federally endangered) Purple Bean mussel was discovered in the upper Emory River in April. This species, listed as *endangered* by the federal government, was located just downstream from the Emory headwaters that were a part of the large Connecting the Cumberlands land purchase completed in 2007 by the State of Tennessee and TNC (NL274 ¶1). In addition, another federally endangered species, the Alabama Lampmussel, was tentatively identified there. DNA testing has recently confirmed the identity of this extremely rare species -- a truly exciting discovery. TNC is funding ongoing mussel surveys of the Emory River system.

These finds once again provide an excellent illustration of the biological wealth of the Cumberland Plateau. They also underscore the wisdom and importance of the Connecting the Cumberlands project, and reinforce the gratitude we owe the Bredezen Administration and TNC for bringing it to a successful conclusion.

2. OBED and BSF CAPSULES

2A. *Resource management strengthened*

In a recent meeting with Superintendent Niki Nicholas, TCWP representatives learned that BSF and Obed Resource staff now work together in one joint Division, headed by Tom Blount, Chief of Resource Management. There are 15+ staffers (permanent, term, and seasonal) in this group, including geologists and archaeologists. This large staff should benefit the Obed WSR, which up till now has had only limited staff capability.

2B. *New preserve abutting the Obed WSR*

[Information from The Nature Conservancy]

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) recently accepted a generous donation of land from Dr. Fred and Helen Stone, which has become the newest TNC preserve. The 66-acre tract is located adjacent to the Obed Wild and Scenic River boundary at the top of the Clear Creek gorge near the Lilly Bluff overlook.

The property totals 66 acres and contains pine and hardwood forests. Within these forests is a field of giant sandstone boulders -- some as big as houses -- and large hemlock trees. This area within the preserve provides habitat for a number of rare plants and animals. A portion of this area is also popular with climbers for "bouldering." The preserve not only buffers the Obed WSR, but adds to its valuable and unique features.

For more information -- and photos -- visit www.nature.org/tennessee.

3. TENNESSEE NEWS

3A. *107th General Assembly wrap-up – land-acquisition funds retained*

[Includes information from TCV]

Our State legislature adjourned early this year, May 21, just 6 days after the last TCWP Newsletter went to press. Therefore, much (but not all) of what we reported then (NL297 ¶1C) has remained unchanged.

Land-acquisition funds: The real good news is that the final FY 2011/2012 budget, approved unanimously on May 21, includes all four of the Real Estate Transfer Funds, totaling \$16,514,700. The state will therefore have some money available for purchasing land for local parks, greenways, state parks, wetlands, wild lands, open spaces, and wildlife areas, and for matching any federal funds that might be forthcoming for these purposes. Thanks to Gov. Haslam for including these funds in his proposed, as well as amended, budget! And much gratitude to the Forever Green Tennessee coalition of organizations (including TCWP) and individuals, led with incredible energy and effectiveness by Kathleen Williams!

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Gov. Haslam (p.2) for including these funds in his budget and for supporting them during the legislative process. Thank Kathleen Williams for leading the Forever Green Tennessee coalition (kathleen@tenngreen.org)

Good bills passed:

- **Rock harvesting** (NL297 ¶1C). An important feature is that, for the first time, state regulators can now issue a stop-work order. The bill does much to stop illegal and destructive rock mining and is a clear step forward in regulating this industry.
- **Hydraulic fracturing**. The resolution HR.98 (Richardson) passed the House unanimously in support of new regulations for hydraulic fracturing. It urges TDEC, the oil & gas industry (TOGA), and citizen groups (TCV and LWV) to collaborate on developing such regulations. There has already been some follow-up activity (¶3B, this NL).

Good bills lost:

- Protection against **Mountaintop removal** (NL297 ¶1C) was defeated in committee by a 6:2 vote on party lines. TCV believes the committee would like to come to a compromise on the issue, and that work on this bill may therefore continue next year.
- Container recycling ('**Bottle Bill**'). Though the bill once again was taken off notice for the year, Marge Davis (Scenic Tennessee) continues her tremendous effort. She has steadfastly worked to meet objections by the opposition, but TCV believes "the real objection is simply that bottling companies believe [the bill] will hurt their financial bottom line."

3B. *TCWP continues working for stronger state oil & gas regulation*

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Earlier in 2011, TCWP participated in hearings and submitted comments on proposed changes to oil & gas regulations (NL297 ¶2A). TDEC (TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation) has received many comments and is currently evaluating them and preparing final proposed regulations for approval by the State Oil & Gas Board on August 25-26. The scope of this rulemaking does not address issues specifically related to hydraulic fracturing (fracking), and TCWP has worked with several other advocacy groups to call for this gap to be addressed. In March, TDEC hosted a meeting for these groups, along with representatives of the Tennessee Oil and Gas Association (TOGA), to discuss fracking regulations and practices.

During the 2011 state legislative session, the House passed House Resolution 0098, which encourages TDEC, TOGA, "and representatives of the public, represented by the League of Women Voters and the Tennessee Conservation Voters [TCV], to meet with the purpose of proposing regulations to provide necessary oversight for the use of hydrological fracturing as a method of modern natural gas extraction in Tennessee." (¶3A, this NL)

In June, the LWV arranged for our environmental coalition (all of them members of TCV) to meet in Nashville with TDEC Commissioner Martineau, Deputy Commissioner Meghreblian, and managers from TDEC's Water Pollution Control Division to discuss moving forward with the resolution and the issues that we want to see addressed,

many of which were outlined in an independent, multi-stakeholder (STRONGER) review report in 2007. Issues include the need for a fee structure to support grossly inadequate TDEC oil & gas regulatory resources, regulation of air emissions, identification and control of chemicals used, collection of key water-quality data, more restrictions on well siting, and others. TDEC is planning another joint meeting of the Resolution parties, including TCWP, tentatively in August.

In anticipation of a fracking boom in Tennessee, we hope to learn from disastrous experiences in other states and prevent rather than remediate problems. (For another fracking-related article, see ¶6B).

4. TVA: AIR QUALITY and NATURAL RESOURCES

4A. *Credits for the big air-quality victory*

An article in our latest Newsletter described in some detail the measures TVA is now obliged to take to achieve major improvements in air quality for the region (NL297 ¶3B). Here, belatedly, we want to give some credit for this great victory that was announced April 14.

It all began with concern over the highly damaging air pollution experienced by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP). Don Barger, appointed director of the Southeast regional office of NPCA (National Parks Conservation Association) in 1992, very soon became focused on this issue and on the fact that TVA's coal-fired power plants were the chief culprits. Under provisions of the 1977 amendments to the Clean Air Act, the GSMNP (as well as many other national parks) is a Class-1 area that must be free of adverse impacts of air pollution. Yet, multiple adverse impacts (on vegetation, visitor experience, human health, etc.) had been unquestionably demonstrated by National Park Service (NPS) researchers and others.

For decades after passage of national Clean Air legislation, TVA and other polluters had taken advantage of the law's grandfathering provision that allows old power plants to delay installing/upgrading pollution-control equipment until there is a need for the plant to make other major modifications. The utilities got around this requirement by characterizing all changes as 'mere Band-Aids' (i.e., not major modifications).

Don kept working on the problem, and by 2000 NPCA was ready to file a lawsuit, charging TVA to be in violation of the 1977 Amendments to the Clean Air Act. Other organizations joined as co-plaintiffs. Don gives much credit for the success of this lawsuit to a team of lawyers (none of them members of large law firms) who took on the work *pro bono*, at considerable personal risk, and to the good body of scientific data that had been collected by NPS and others. We are deeply grateful to Don and the many others responsible to this major victory.

4B. *TCWP's comments on Natural Resources Plan*

The group of TCWP volunteers (Warren Webb, Mark Bevelhimer, Frank Hensley, and Virginia Dale) that was studying TVA's Draft Natural Resources Plan (NL297 ¶3D), subsequently submitted comments. TCWP congratulated TVA on the agency's major effort to bring greater cohesiveness to natural resource management, and made both general and specific suggestions. Among recommended actions were the following:

- Aggressive invasive species management (prioritizing areas and species to be controlled).
- An explicit native grass establishment program.
- Proactive sensitive species planning, monitoring, and habitat improvement.
- Proactive waterfowl and shorebird management (e.g., maintaining mudflats; increasing cover).
- Specifications for forestry activities
- Water Resource Management (cleaning up small streams in watersheds of the TVA system).
- Provisions for *quiet-water-recreation-only* areas.
- Prohibition of ATVs in several designated Zones.

For the complete text of TCWP's comments, contact Sandra Goss (Sandra@sandrakgoss.com, or 865-583-3967). The final Plan can be found at www.tva.com/nrp.

5. The CHEROKEE and other FORESTS

5A. *The Cherokee Wilderness bill is reintroduced*

The bill that would add about 20,000 acres to designated Wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest, and which was first introduced in June 2010 (NL292 ¶4A), was reintroduced by Sen. Alexander on May 27. Numbered S.1090, it has been assigned to the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee, among whose members is Senator Corker, a co-sponsor of the bill. S.1090 would add acreage to 5 existing Wilderness areas (Big and Little Frog, Sampson Mountain, Big Laurel Branch, and Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock) and would create a new one, the more than 9,000-acre Upper Bald River Wilderness.

At least 12 additional wilderness bills, involving 7 states, are pending at this time. Most of these (like the Cherokee NF bill) are left over from last year, when the 111th Congress ran out of time. If passed, these bills would protect more than 1.5 million acres of new wilderness.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Sen. Alexander for reintroducing the Cherokee Wilderness bill and Sen. Corker for co-sponsoring it (addresses on p. 2). Urge our senators to see this bill through to passage.

5B. *Rocky Fork receives requested 2011 funding; more needed for 2012*

Rocky Fork (about 30 miles from Johnson City, along the NC state line, NL283 ¶5A) has for several years

been the US Forest Service's No.1 priority for land acquisition. On May 17, Rocky Fork received a \$6 million LWCF (Land & Water Conservation Fund) allocation, the full request for FY 2011. In a year when LWCF funding is low overall (¶7A, this NL), this was an encouraging indication that the remaining need for \$5 million might be met in FY 2012. Right now, however, this seems quite unlikely (¶7A, this NL).

Prior to the funding just received, 3,628 acres remained to be purchased for \$11 million. Such an acquisition would complete a series begun in December 2008, when the Conservation Fund and the US Forest Service, with contribution from the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund, purchased a roughly 9,600-acre tract for Rocky Fork (NL283 ¶5A).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge Sens. Alexander and Corker (addresses on p.2) to work for the additional \$5 million needed to complete Rocky Fork purchase, and thank them for their role in having secured the important FY 2011 appropriation. Among non-Tennessee legislators who have worked for Rocky Fork is Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC), known to us from his role in ending the North Shore Road threat in the Smokies.

5C. *Explore the Cherokee National Forest*

Tennessee Wild is providing opportunities for becoming better acquainted with the Cherokee National Forest. They offer a variety of outings each month including day hikes, backpacking trips, and trail maintenance trips. You can see the list and register at http://tnwild.org/get_involved/outings. For more information about a specific outing, contact Jeff Hunter at 423-322-7866 or Jeff@safc.org. The first of many future outings listed is a Big Creek Trail Family Hike (Polk County), on Saturday, July 23.

5D. *Prospects for the National Forest Planning rule*

Nearly 300,000 comments were received on the proposed new US Forest Planning Rule for which the comment period closed May 16 (NL297 ¶4A). Publication of the final rule is anticipated late this year. This rule, required under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976, will provide the blueprint for the management plans developed by individual Forests every 15 years or so.

Letters from the nation's 13 biggest environmental organizations, from 67 congressmen of both parties, and from 405 scientists working in natural-resource-related disciplines applauded and supported the stated goals of maintaining and restoring the integrity, resiliency, and health of our national forests and watersheds. The commenters were, however, concerned that the proposed rule left too much decision-making authority in the hands of *local* forest managers -- without clear *national* standards. Because local decision making has a long history of being driven in the direction of resource extraction, (primarily

logging), clear, mandatory emphasis is needed on resource *protection* and *restoration*. As stated in TCWP's testimony (NL297 ¶4A), some of the specific areas for which national standards need to be set are the protection of forest wildlife and of critical water supplies (see ¶5E, below). Local managers should also be *required* to base their decisions on the best available science, rather than merely to "consider" it.

On the other side, comments from the timber industry and from some local officials charge that the proposed new rules amount to micromanaging from Washington, D.C., instead of giving forest managers across the country the room they need to effectively manage forests in their own communities. Industry comments also state, among other things, that wildlife protection should be left up to the Fish and Wildlife Service instead of being the concern of the Forest Service.

5E. *USFS takes big step toward watershed protection*

[From *The Missoulian*, 7/2/11]

To measure its progress in protecting the nation's water supply, the US Forest Service has compiled the first nationwide map of watersheds and their health. Heretofore, much of this information was available only at the state level. The new maps catalog the watershed status on 193 million acres of national forest land coast to coast, and include almost 400,000 miles of streams and 3 million acres of lakes. Those watersheds supply drinking water to 900 cities and 3,400 public water systems.

With a grading system of 24 attributes designed to work for all regions, the maps will provide benchmark scores that should help the Forest Service track its efforts to improve watersheds. It may be noted that this new strategic plan, for the first time, targets restoration of watersheds and forest health as core management objectives, thus, hopefully, representing a shift in USFS priorities. President Obama's 2012 budget proposes to spend \$80 million on USFS watershed restoration – a good start, but this sum will undoubtedly be greatly reduced by the House (¶7).

Once some bugs are fixed in the database, the maps will be publicly available.

5F. *USFS releases forecast for southern forests*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss; information from USFS]

The US Forest Service's first comprehensive forecast for southern forests was released in May and identifies issues forest managers will focus on to maintain southern forests in the coming years.

According to the report, urbanization, bioenergy use, weather patterns, land ownership changes, and invasive species will significantly diminish the South's forests between the years 2010 and 2060. Forest lands are projected to decrease by about 23 million acres. This is equivalent to the size of South Carolina, according to Rob Doudrick, director of the Forest Service Southern Research Station.

People are also expected to influence water resources, wildlife, recreational opportunities, fire, and other issues.

Using computer models and expert analysis, the document will guide USFS personnel in their efforts to maintain the vitality and efficiency of forests in the South.

Forest Service Southern Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa commented, "The summary report clearly demonstrates the urgent need for developing a collaborative strategy to conserve and restore southern forests. A healthy and prosperous America relies on the health of our natural resources, and particularly our forests."

Additional key findings are:

- o Population growth will bring more runoff and increased pollution from roads, buildings, and parking lots, impacting supplies of clean drinking water and the quality of aquatic habitats
- o More frequent and intense wildfires will pose additional challenges to community and forestry wildfire organizations
- o The spread of plant, insect, and disease pests could severely affect native species, forest productivity, and wildlife
- o More than 1,000 plant and wildlife species of conservation concern could be threatened by urbanization, climate change, and invasive species

Beginning this fall, the Forest Service will release separate reports that detail the findings and implications for forest management and conservation for five sub-regions of the South, namely, the Piedmont, Coastal Plain, Appalachian/Cumberland, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and Mid-South. The 13 southern states included in the study are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

6. NATIONAL PARK ISSUES

6A. *National parks and solar energy development*

[From NPCA, 4/12/11]

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has initiated the Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Solar PEIS) process to identify where solar energy development should occur on federal lands in certain western and mountain states. NPCA (National Parks Conservation Assoc.) supports the Solar Energy Zone (SEZ) alternative, which would concentrate solar development within parcels of land that avoid needless future conflicts with national park resources and sensitive desert ecology.

Of the 24 SEZs that have been identified, NPCA, however, advocates that four be eliminated or modified because they compromise important resources of certain national parks or monuments (water resources, viewsheds, wildlife corridors, etc.). NPCA recommends that any proposed solar project sited within 15 miles of a national park boundary trigger a consultation with the National Park Service to determine whether the project unacceptably im-

pacts or diminishes national park resources or visitor enjoyment.

6B. *National parks and natural-gas production from Marcellus shale*

[Information from *National Geographic*]

Practically overnight, rapid deployment of fracking (hydraulic fracturing) technology has enabled natural gas to be produced from previously inaccessible shale formations that underlie much of the nation. According to an assessment by the National Park Service (<http://marcellus.psu.edu/resources/PDFs/marcellusshalereport09.pdf.pdf>, first published in 2008 and since updated), shale drilling could have a more significant impact on public lands than did the conventional oil and gas wells of the past. While conventional oil or gas finds are in limited pockets, the shale gas is locked in rock continuously throughout the formation. Furthermore, the shale gas rigs are larger and require more space than the traditional oil and gas equipment. Even though the sites are reclaimed after drilling, four to six acres of surface disturbance is likely at each site; that's more than twice the 1.5 to 3 acres needed for a conventional drill site. And drilling in a forest means cutting down trees. NPS also raised major concerns about the potential water withdrawals from rivers, given that each well in the Marcellus shale requires about 4 million gallons of water.

There are numerous other worries about natural-gas extraction, including, (a) contamination of groundwater and surface water from injected fluids and returned wastewater; (b) air-quality degradation from internal combustion engines on drill rigs and trucks; (c) dust from equipment transportation; (d) impacts to solitude and night skies from noise and lighting; and (e) safety concerns associated with the large number of trucks needed to support drilling operations.

The National Park System does not hold the mineral rights to all the lands it owns. Two large national parks are located near the Marcellus shale: Shenandoah National Park, 20 miles to the east, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park, near the southern edge. In addition, there are 33 national park system units (historic sites, scenic river areas, etc.) that also could be affected; of these, 13 sit right on top of Marcellus-shale formations. The areas for these 13 units total 170,300 acres, for two-thirds of which drilling and extraction rights are privately owned.

NPS officials are hopeful that direct impact on federal park property can be avoided with the use of horizontal drilling techniques from offsite. Where *nonfederal* mineral interests are located on federal lands (such as wells in the BSFNRRRA – see ¶1A, this NL), they would be controlled by 9B regulations, which are currently under revision ¶1C, this NL). In NY state, NPS requested that any proposal for a drilling site within 2,000 feet of a park service unit automatically trigger a state environmental impact analysis.

[NOTE: In case you missed it, we refer you to NL297 ¶6C (Complexities of determining the environmental footprint of natural gas), which contains further information on

fracking, as well as on the methane emissions from natural gas.]

6C. *The state of our national parks*

NPCA's Center for Park Research has published *The State of America's National Parks*, a comprehensive overview based on 80 individual park assessments -- a 20% sample of the 394 units in the National Park System. The assessment was focused on protection of both natural and cultural resources.

The report finds that new as well as long-standing threats are impacting vegetation, wildlife, water, and air quality within the national parks. Our parks are increasingly at risk from pollution, adjacent land development, energy development, and climate change. Native plants and animals are being eliminated from park landscapes in 95% of the parks assessed, many as a result of climate change; and often invasive exotic species are taking their place. Rising sea levels are threatening to inundate coastal archaeological sites. Parks intended to protect cultural resources (particularly, archeological resources) are seriously impacted by shortages of trained professional staff, and also suffer from lack of maintenance.

NPCA makes 10 recommendations all of them very apt, but few of them likely to be followed soon in the current climate of anti-environmental legislation and budget cutting. [Note: We currently spend just one-thirteenth of one percent (0.08%) of the federal budget on our national parks.]

For more details on the report, visit www.npca.org/cpr.

7. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES: CONGRESSIONAL RAMPAGE AGAINST THE ENVIRONMENT

7A. *LWCF at the lowest level in its 45-year history*

[Information from TPGF and other sources]

Total = \$66 M (including \$3 for the Forest Legacy Program). That's what the House Appropriations Committee has done to the Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriation for FY 2012 (remember that this is virtually the only federal money available for acquiring lands and waters that are in critical need of protection).

- \$66 M is the lowest level in the 45-year history of the LWCF.
- \$66 M represents an ~80% cut from FY 2011 which, in turn, was a 30% cut from FY 2010.

Amounts included for specific agencies are as follows:

Bureau of Land Management: \$4.88 M
 Fish and Wildlife Service: \$11.047 M
 National Park Service: \$15.5 M (including \$2 M for battlefields)
 NPS State Grants: \$2.794 M
 Forest Service: \$12.5 M

This provides essentially zero funding for any new land acquisition projects. Willing land owners that had already been lined up for transactions are likely to go elsewhere to sell land they had hoped would be conserved. Such critical lands will be forever lost to adverse developments.

The LWCF IS NOT TAXPAYERS' MONEY. It is money derived from the leasing of publicly owned offshore oil and gas resources. This committee came up with only 1%(!) of these lease revenues, which totaled \$6 Billion in 2010. By law, the LWCF could have been appropriated at nearly \$1 Billion.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: It's probably too late for the House, but there's still the Senate. Tell your senators (addresses on p.2) why we must have adequate conservation funds, and why these are not taxpayer dollars. Send a similar communication to Pres. Obama.

eliminated in March, when one of the two anti-environment riders that remained in the compromise over the Continuing Resolution for the FY2011 budget (NL297 ¶5B) stripped BLM of funding to implement the policy. There followed Congressional pressures (including, undoubtedly, HR.1581) and lawsuits by the Republican governors of UT, AK, and WY to block the plan. On June 1, Sec. Salazar issued a memo promising *not* to protect BLM lands as "wildlands," let alone as wilderness study areas.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Urge your representative and senators to strongly oppose HR. 1581.
- (2) Ask the Council on Environmental Quality (Nancy Sutley, chair) to urge the Administration to assert its authority to protect the many very special BLM lands (www.whitehouse.gov/ceq, or see Political Guide) .

7B. *The wilderness 'elimination' bill and other wilderness developments*

In April, Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) introduced the most egregious anti-wilderness bill imaginable. Under HR.1581, the Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act, tens of millions of acres of wilderness-quality lands across the country would lose protection and be open to oil & gas drilling, road construction, ORVs and other destructive developments. What makes this bill particularly worrisome that its sponsor, Kevin McCarthy, is not just another Congressman but is part of the top echelon of the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives.

HR.1581 would affect public lands under the jurisdiction of two federal agencies, the Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It would overturn the Roadless Rule of 2001, under which nearly 60 million acres of unroaded areas in national forests are protected from road construction, commercial logging, and other developments. On BLM lands the bill would strip any protection from nearly 7 million acres of potential Wilderness Study Areas, and would prohibit future administrations from ever protecting such wilderness-quality lands.

In mid-May, a number of organizations, including TCWP, signed a letter to Members of Congress, urging them to reject this extreme effort to roll back America's wilderness protections, which would rob the American people of their national heritage.

The BLM areas addresses by the bill have had a very changeable fate in recent times. Under a Bush Administration policy, promulgated in 2003, wilderness became the only resource that BLM was specifically *precluded* from managing or protecting. That meant that the agency could no longer identify Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in which resources would be protected to remain eligible for Wilderness designation by Act of Congress. On December 23, 2010, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar issued a new "Wild Lands Policy" for the BLM, part of which reversed the Bush era "No More Wilderness" policy (NL295 ¶5C). But this Obama Administration initiative was effectively

7C. *A dirty-water bill that would set us back 40 years passes the House*

[From Clean Water Network]

On July 13, the House passed HR.2018, the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011, an amendment to the Clean Water Act, a bill that would take us back to the era of patchwork, ineffective state rules. HR.2018 restricts EPA's ability to issue a revised or new water-quality standard for a pollutant whenever a state has adopted - and EPA has already approved - a standard, unless the state concurs. It would also restrict EPA's ability to veto a Corps 404 permitting decision unless the state concurs with the veto; and it would prohibit EPA from superseding a water quality certification (that a discharge will comply with applicable water quality requirements) granted by a state under CWA section 401.

A recent EPA analysis of H.R. 2018 concluded that the bill would "overturn almost 40 years of federal legislation by preventing EPA from protecting public health and the environment." The bill would "fundamentally disrupt the balance established by the original Clean Water Act in 1972 -- a law that carefully constructed complementary roles for EPA, the Corps and the states."

HR.2018, which did not have a single legislative hearing, was passed by a vote of 239 : 184, with only 13 Republicans and 16 Democrats crossing party lines. In the Tennessee delegation, only Reps. Cooper (D-5) and Cohen (D-9) voted against the bill and deserve our thanks. The other 7, all Republicans, voted for it.

The Administration has stated its strong opposition to HR.2018 and has indicated that Pres. Obama would veto it, should it reach his desk. This polluters' holiday must be stopped in the Senate (see action box).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Without delay, contact both your senators in strong opposition to HR.2018 and to ALL the dirty water bills and appropriations riders (see ¶7D, below) that are being rammed through Congress. (Contact information on p.2)

P.S. Here is Rep. Fleischmann’s reply to a constituent’s message urging his opposition to this bill: “As you may know, [HR.2018] permits each State to determine water quality standards. This allows states to make decisions based upon local conditions that best benefit each state. ...”

7D. *Additional unprecedented attacks on clean water by the House of Representatives*

[From Clean Water Network]

The FY2012 Interior/EPA Appropriations bill, in addition to slashing EPA’s budget by 18%, contains numerous egregious dirty water riders. Some of them exempt the worst sources of dirty water from Clean Water Act requirements. Others prohibit EPA oversight or prevent EPA’s ability to update or implement regulations. Many hard-fought gains we have managed to make in the past, would be undone by this bill. The bill was passed by the full House Appropriations Committee on July 12 and is expected to come to the House floor the week of July 26.

Here is a partial list:

- Sections 432 and 433 – Preventing Rules to Protect Streams and Blocking EPA Oversight of Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining (i.e., undoing the process put in place April 2010 –NL294 ¶2A)
- Section 434 – Preventing the Regulation of Coal Ash as a Hazardous Waste (NL293 ¶3A)
- Section 435 – Blocking EPA Efforts to Clarify the Scope of the Clean Water Act (thus excluding isolated wetlands and intermittent streams from protection, see NL297 ¶5A)
- Section 436 – Preventing EPA’s Ability to Regulate The Largest Water Users (namely, cooling systems at power plants).
- Section 438 - Exempting Stormwater Discharge from Logging Roads from Clean Water Act Permits
- Section 439 – Taking Away EPA’s Authority to Make Stormwater Programs More Effective
- Section 502 – Removing Clean Water Act Safeguards to Regulate Pesticide Discharges (i.e, eliminating requirements for NPDES permits)

Another bill, the Energy and Waters Appropriations bill, HR.2354, includes a rider to stop funding EPA and the Corps of Engineer’s effort to finalize the Waters of the US Guidance and subsequent rulemaking (NL297 ¶5A)

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your US Representative and senators how outraged you are by these riders and urge their strongest opposition. Addresses on p.2.

7E. *Americans worry about water-related risks. Pay attention, Congressmen!*

[From Gallup.com]

As it sets about destroying our safeguards for a clean water supply, the House of Representatives might well ponder the results of a March 2011 Gallup poll that shows

a high level of worry about water issues. Respondents were asked whether they worried about certain problems a great deal (1), a fair amount (2), not much (3), or not at all (4). Here are the responses for water issues.

	(1)/(2)	(3)/(4)
	%	%
Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste	79	20
Pollution of rivers, lakes, reservoirs	79	22
Pollution of drinking water	77	23
Maintenance of the nation’s supply of fresh water for household needs	75	24

The level of worry about other environmental issues (air pollution, species extinction, rain forests, loss of open space, global warming) was lower, though still considerable.

8. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

8A. *Highest scientific review again affirms human causes of recent global warming; inaction is not an option*

The National Research Council (an activity of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences and of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine) has released the fifth and final volume in the *America’s Climate Choices* series of studies requested by Congress (see also NL292 ¶7B). While it recognized that climate change is inherently a *global* issue, the committee focused on the charge from Congress to identify steps and strategies that U.S. decision makers could adopt now. If the U.S. pursues strong emission reduction efforts, it will be better positioned to influence other countries to do the same. (U.S. leadership needs to remain actively engaged in international climate change response efforts.)

This latest report reaffirms that the preponderance of scientific evidence points to human activities -- especially the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere -- as the most likely cause for most of the global warming that has occurred over the past several decades. This trend cannot be explained by natural factors such as internal climate variability or changes in incoming energy from the sun.

Substantial reductions of greenhouse gas emissions should be among the highest priorities in the national response. Because adverse changes to the climate system are difficult or impossible to undo, any uncertainty in projecting the specifics of severity, location, or time of climate change impacts must not be used as a reason for inaction. It would be imprudent to delay. The risks of sticking to "business as usual" is a much greater concern than the risks associated with a strong response. Because the effects of greenhouse gases can take decades to manifest and then persist for hundreds or even thousands of years, waiting for impacts to occur before taking action will likely be too late for meaningful mitigation.

State and local efforts, though potentially quite significant, are unlikely to yield outcomes comparable to what could be achieved with a strong *federal* effort. The most efficient way to accelerate emissions reductions is through a nationally uniform price on greenhouse gas emissions with a price trajectory sufficient to spur investments in energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies.

A PDF summary and Report in Brief can be downloaded (free) from www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12781

millions of organisms depend on coral reefs for shelter, and on other calcifiers for food. (It should be noted that proposed “geoengineering” solutions to global warming, such as injecting light-reflecting particles into the atmosphere, would do nothing to halt ocean acidification even if they succeeded in reducing temperatures -- which is not a given).

8B. *Congress's disastrous attacks on climate protection*

The FY2012 Interior/EPA Appropriations bill, in addition its egregious dirty water riders (§7D, this NL), its virtual elimination of species-protection initiatives, and other horrors, attacks climate-related protections in every possible way -- through policy riders and draconian budget cuts. This bill was passed by the full House Appropriations Committee a few days ago and is expected to come to the House floor the week of July 26. Among other things, the bill

- bars tighter tailpipe standards for greenhouse gases that EPA is developing for 2017-2025 and beyond,
- blocks EPA from issuing anticipated emissions standards for greenhouse gases from power plants and refineries (NL295 §4A), and overrides existing obligations for these and other large emitters to meet Clean Air Act permit requirements for their greenhouse gas emissions.
- cuts climate-related funding for a number of agencies by a total of by \$83M, or 22% below FY 2011 levels (the President had proposed a 38% *increase*).

8C. *Global-warming consequences*

A couple more items to add to the long list.

- Excess precipitation [Info from EDF].
Climate models predict that warmer global temperatures will increase precipitation, as warmer air produces more atmospheric moisture. 2010 was the wettest year on record. More recently, on the east coast of Australia, an area the size of Germany and France combined was ravaged by rising flood waters following torrential rains. Record flooding in Brazil last month took the lives of at least 665 people. And in Sri Lanka, extreme flooding left up to 400,000 children without enough food.
- Ocean acidification [Info from UCS]
Our oceans currently absorb about 1 million tons of CO₂ per hour, and seawater is becoming more acidic. Since the Industrial Revolution of the mid-1800s, the acidity of the Earth's oceans has increased by 30%. CO₂ depletes carbonate ions in seawater, leaving fewer ions free to build the calcium carbonate-based shells and skeletons of corals, crustaceans (e.g., shrimp), echinoderms (e.g., starfish), and mollusks (e.g., clams). This could have a devastating impact on biodiversity and the food chain, as

9. TCWP NEWS

9A. *Upcoming activities*

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

Big Ridge State Park Hike – Saturday, August 13

TCWP Program Committee member Jan Lyons will lead an easy-to-moderate five-mile hike that will give hikers a taste of four different trails at Big Ridge State Park. We'll take the Lake Trail (an excellent trail for viewing wildlife such as deer, frogs, herons, and wood ducks), cross Big Ridge Dam, and continue along Norris Lake on the Dark Hollow Trail. We'll return to the dam via the Big Valley Trail and the Ghost House Trail.

Those interested in carpooling should meet in the Books-A-Million/Rush Fitness Complex shopping center in Oak Ridge (at the front end of the parking lot, along South Illinois Avenue near the Waffle House) in time to leave by 8:30 Eastern. Others can meet at the Lake Trail trailhead (next to the baseball field) at 9:15. Bring a lunch or snack and water, and wear sturdy shoes.

National Public Lands Day cleanup -- Saturday, Sept. 24

Our annual observance of National Public Lands Day will feature, as it has for a number of years, a morning of invasive exotic plant removal at the TVA Small Wild Area at Worthington Cemetery on the east end of Oak Ridge. Our yearly efforts in this area are helping to eradicate wisteria from the cemetery, and privet and other invasive exotics from the SWA. A pizza lunch will be provided following our work session, which will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around noon. Additional details will be provided in the September newsletter and via email alert.

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 1

Save the date! Our speakers this year will be Robert Martineau, Tennessee's new Commissioner of Environment & Conservation, and new Deputy Commissioner for Parks & Recreation, Brock Hill. The meeting will be held at Cumberland Mountain State Park. The morning session, to include our annual business meeting, will be followed by lunch and a selection of hikes in the early afternoon. Watch for additional details to come, and plan to join us for what should be a very informative program.

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

9B. *Work continues on digital archiving of TCWP newsletters*

[Contributed by Sandra K. Goss]

The University of Tennessee Digital Library will ultimately host a site with all TCWP newsletters available on internet and searchable. The digitization of our older, non-electronic newsletters is quite a process and continues apace, thanks to helpful volunteers and UT Library staff. Phil Campbell, Ed Clebsch, Sandra K. Goss, Jimmy Groton, Charlie Klabunde, Lee Russell, and Priscilla Watts have worked to scan the non-electronic versions of newsletters. That task is completed and the work moves to another stage: creating PDF's of all the newsletters. Volunteers are needed for this effort.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please call or email Sandra at 865-583-3967 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com if you can help create PDF versions of past TCWP Newsletters. Training will be provided and equipment will be available at the Main U.T. Library. You can choose to help as little or as much as your time allows.

9C. *From the Executive Director*

[Contributed by Sandra K. Goss]

I draw your attention to two recent issues of the *News Sentinel* (as well as of other major East Tennessee papers) that carried half-page ads featuring endorsements of Wilderness designations in the Cherokee National Forest. One ad shows operators of a Bed & Breakfast in Ducktown, Tennessee, and the other pictures mayors of four counties in northeast Tennessee. All recognize the value of wilderness to a sustainable eco-tourism economy (the title of each message is: "Wilderness is our common ground").

The ads (an activity of the PEW Environment Group) are beautifully done and make me proud to be associated with this wilderness effort. Several organizations, including Sierra Club, Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Cherokee Forest Voices, and TCWP have worked on this for many years. As with many of our issues, it takes many of us a long time to effect permanent change. It's a big morale boost to see those hours of meetings, letter writing, phone calling etc. result in introduced legislation.

I'm keeping in mind and you should too, it's not over until the legislation is signed. As you'll read elsewhere in this edition (§5A), the Wilderness designation legislation has been introduced by Senators Alexander and Corker. Please, if you haven't already done so, send a supportive message to your congressman, and a note of thanks to our senators.

The hotter months are typically less activity-focused. Attendance at our early-June Ocoee Weekend Outings suffered from unseasonable heat. That's unfortunate because the outings were informative and refreshing. We have a hike planned at Big Ridge State Park in August (§9A) that will be quite fun also. These events are developed by our Program Committee, which meets every 6 weeks on Monday evenings. We're looking for a couple of new members and I urge you to consider joining the group. The meet-

ings, held in Oak Ridge, are friendly and efficient and present an easy opportunity to make a big impact on the programs TCWP sponsors

Another way to be more involved in TCWP is to become a TCWP ambassador, working occasional shifts at festivals or other public events where we set up our booth. Training is provided for this people-intensive work. It's a great way to meet people and promote protection of fragile lands, pure drinking water, and connected habitat for wild creatures, among other things.

Yet another opportunity to be of service is through Community Shares (CS). As a Community Shares member, TCWP must provide sweat equity every year through committee meetings, phone banks, envelope addressing, event volunteering, or other tasks. Training is provided when needed for these tasks, many of which are performed in Knoxville. Volunteering for Community Shares through TCWP helps us stay in compliance with this fund-raising organization and contributes mightily to our bottom line.

It will get cooler in a few weeks. As you examine your calendar and schedule, keep TCWP in mind. For more information, or to get more involved, call or write me at 865.583-3967 or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com. In the meantime, thanks for all you do! If you're reading this, it's helpful. If you have time to do more, we welcome you.

Sandra

PS: I hope you'll sign up for our e-lert list (average, 3 e-mails/month). Drop me a note at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com. I'll be typing to you.

9D. *Thanks SO much to:*

[Contributed by Sandra K. Goss]

- Cindy Kendrick for her work on the Tennessee Oil and Gas Regulations.
- Jeff Hunter, Hugh Irwin, Ray Payne, Will Skelton, and others for their continuing work on securing Wilderness designation for special places in the Cherokee National Forest.
- Jean and Axel Ringe for hosting the Annual Meeting of Cherokee Forest Voices.
- Warren Webb, Mark Bevelhimer, Frank Hensley, and Virginia Dale for writing comments on TVA's Natural Resources Plan.
- Lee Russell for writing an information-alert for the BSFNRRRA and Obed oil & gas management plan.
- Frank Hensley, Lee Russell, Warren Webb, and Sandra Goss for meeting with BSF/Obed Superintendent Niki Nicholson.
- Lee Russell, writer and editor extraordinaire, and Carol Grametbauer for their work on current issues of the TCWP newsletter; Jean Bangham, John Bates, Dick Raridon, Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, and Hal Smith for assembling our newsletter for snail mailing; and Charlie Klabunde for preparing and disseminating the electronic version of each current NL.

- Jimmy Groton, Charlie Klabunde, Sandra Goss, and Lee Russell for consultations with UT Library staff about the archiving of all TCWP Newsletters.
- Phil Campbell, Ed Clebsch, Sandra K. Goss, Jimmy Groton, Charlie Klabunde, Lee Russell and Priscilla Watts for scanning the paper-only versions of past newsletters for the archive.
- Carol Grametbauer for publicizing our activities and events, as well as for serving as Secretary to TCWP and Chair of the Program Committee.
- Treasurer Charlie Klabunde for working on TCWP's IRS Form 990 and on the Tennessee State Solicitation Permit.
- Lee Russell for writing and updating articles for the TCWP website and for initiating website reorganization.
- Susan Donnelly for stewarding the North Ridge Trail; and to Jean Bangham, Ruth Young, Charlie Klabunde, Melissa Weaver, and others for clearing a portion of the trail to celebrate National Trails Day.
- Larry Pounds for organizing and leading the June Ocoee weekend outings; and to hike leaders Rick Foster (botanist and Tennessee Wild volunteer), Dick Evans (President of Benton MacKaye Trail Association), and Joey Shaw (Botany Professor at University of Tennessee, Chattanooga), for their help with the Ocoee outings.
- Jimmy Groton for organizing participation in the Obed clean-up
- Jean Bangham, Tim Bigelow, Mary Lynn Dobson, Frank Hensley, Jan Lyons, Patsy Monk, Hal Smith, and Jan Stewart for their help with the TCWP booth at the Secret City Festival.
- Marion Burger and Jan Lyons for their work on membership retention and recruitment.

9E. *Kroger to procure seafood more sustainably*

[Contributed by Marion Burger]

Members who purchase Kroger gift certificates to benefit TCWP without cost to themselves (NL289 ¶10D) may be interested in learning that the company recently announced a partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to procure wild seafood more sustainably. In a Spring 2011 "best customer" circular, Kroger states: "[We will]

“- assess the current sourcing of our top 20 wild-caught seafood species in order to develop a sustainable seafood sourcing strategy.

“- help our fisheries improve practices across the supply chain and pursue higher sustainability standards in the trade and harvesting of seafood, including evaluating Marine Stewardship Council certification for wild species.

“We'll also be taking part in WWF's Aquaculture Dialogues, an ongoing series of roundtable discussions work-

ing to minimize the key environmental aspects associated with farm-raised fish.”

9F. *Recent activities*

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

Black Mountain hike - Saturday, May 14

A group of 25, representing both TCWP and the Obed Watershed Community Association, started out on this hike, led by Tennessee State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath. Some decided to leave when showers moved in, but the remainder of the group enjoyed a fine hike with only a little rain. Many interesting plants were seen (including interrupted fern, uncommon in Tennessee), in addition to a variety of birds and rock formations, plus excellent views. Our thanks to Randy for leading another great hike for TCWP.

National Trails Day: North Ridge Trail Workday – Saturday, June 4

Eight people joined TCWP's North Ridge Trail Steward, Susan Donnelly, for a morning of trimming vegetation on the section of the trail between Wedgewood Lane and Key Springs Road. The event was planned to coincide with National Trails Day. The North Ridge Trail is one of TCWP's oldest on-going projects. Developed and maintained by TCWP members for many decades, the 11+-mile National and State Recreation Trail is one of the crown jewels of the acclaimed Oak Ridge Greenways system. Sections of the trail are available for adoption; for more information contact Sandra Goss at Sandra@sandragoss.com or at 865-583-3967.

Cherokee National Forest Outings with TN Native Plant Society – Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12

Unusually hot June weather diminished attendance at this weekend of events in the Ocoee Gorge area, co-sponsored by TCWP, the Tennessee Native Plant Society, TennesseeWild and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association. Eight people participated in the Benton Falls hike Saturday morning, and seven in the Big Creek Trail hike Sunday morning; both were excellent hikes. Four participated in a Saturday afternoon motorcade with botanist Joey Shaw along U.S. 64, where a rare plant survey is currently taking place.

The small group size allowed for good interaction at each event. We learned that trails in wilderness areas are supposed to be unblazed to add to the wilderness effect; we saw many examples of the yellow-flowered sweet shrub; and we had a thoughtful discussion about the U.S. 64 upgrade. Many thanks to TCWP board member and plant ecologist Larry Pounds (who is also on the Tennessee Native Plant Society board) for developing, organizing and leading this series of outings.

10. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

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

- July 21 and 22, Last two hearings on O&G Management Plan for BSFNRRRA and Obed WSR (see ¶1A, this NL).
- July 23, Hike in the Cherokee NF (see ¶5C, this NL).
- August 13, Big Ridge State Park hike (see ¶9A, this NL).
- August 16, Comment deadline for O&G Management Plan for BSFNRRRA and Obed WSR (see ¶1A, this NL).
- September 24, National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery (see ¶9A, this NL).
- Sept. 29-30, Nashville, Tenn. Urban Forestry Council. Info at www.urbanforestryconference.org
- October 1, TCWP Annual Meeting (see ¶9A, this NL).

•• RESOURCES

- “Please Don’t Kill Us, We Are Not Copperheads!- a Snake ID Guide for Anderson County, TN” is a beautifully illustrated 8-page brochure produced by CRESO students under the guidance of John Byrd (CRESO = Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization, supported by a grant from DOE). The brochure can be accessed at <http://www.cresosnake.com/id50.html>
- The US Forest Service’s *i-Tree software* (itreetools.org) helps to assess the monetary value of street trees, plus quantify the environmental services the trees provide. (It factors how the trees help with temperature control, with water quality by filtering out contaminants, with air quality by filtering out pollutants, and with climate change by sequestering carbon.) -- Urban planners in Chattanooga were able to show that for every dollar invested in their urban forests, the city received \$12.18 in benefits.
- *The Climate Hot Map* (<http://www.climatehotmap.org/>), by the Union of Concerned Scientists, provides a new, interactive way to learn about the *local* consequences of *global* warming and the solutions available to meet the climate challenge. The map is built on about 60 fully referenced “hot spots,” places where scientists have gathered evidence of climate changes that are already underway. These illustrate effects on our physical and biological world, and should serve to motivate action to reduce emissions and protect the places we know and love.

“Today the adjective ‘environmental’ comes with a ready-made noun: ‘extremist.’ ... Every business colors itself green, while ‘the greens’ are caricatured as government intruders, bureaucratic busybodies”
(Ellen Goodman)

Do you like **The TCWP Newsletter?**

Since 1966, the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning Newsletter has been providing the best source of environmental news in the Southeast.

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Charlie Klabunde, TCWP Treasurer, 219 East Vanderbilt Dr., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

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(I would prefer to receive my Newsletters as email-attached PDF's Yes No)

TCWP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for 2011

If your address label code ends with underlined blank space, then you have not yet renewed for this year.

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.**

Your address label, top right, is coded **M_ _** with numbers 1-7 inserted showing dues class paid for '10 & '11.

Numbers correspond to those in form below. (**X**= unpaid for '10) *Special Contributions are not included in this coding.*

Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning 1/1 - 12/31/11 - Membership

Please send form, and check (**payable to TCWP, Inc.**), to:

Charles Klabunde, Treas., TCWP

219 E. Vanderbilt Dr.

Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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

NAME(S) _____ e-mail: _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONES: Home _____

Zip - _____ Work _____

- "DUES" -

2. Student, Correspond, Senior (low budget)\$15.00

5. Sustaining member \$100.00**

3. REGULAR (individual) \$25.00

6. Supporting member \$200.00**

4. Family (husband, wife) \$35.00

7. Life member (new) \$500.00**

1. Name your own Intermediate Rate (>\$15). \$ _____

**Includes spouse if indicated:

(will be recorded as next lower rate + gift)

(8. or d = Community Shares donor to TCWP)

I prefer delivery of Newsletters as a PDF attached to an e-mail instead of paper copy via USPS.

Newsletter #298 Great Funding News: Rocky Fork gets \$6M (only \$5M to go)

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

130 TABOR ROAD
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
www.tcwp.org



Taking
Care of
Wild
Places

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PERMIT NO. 178

Now **123** are doing this:
– Instead of via Snail Mail –
their Newsletters are delivered as PDF's
attached to an e-mail. This is *only*
after they told us to make this change.

An e-mail to klabundece@aol.com does it.

**Membership Dues Renewal or
Any Contributions are
Still VERY Much Appreciated.**

TCWP's 2011 Board of Directors

Jimmy GrotonPresident
Frank Hensley ... Vice President
Carol Grametbauer.....Secretary
Charlie Klabunde Treasurer
Mark Bevelhimer.....Director
Tim BigelowDirector
Mary Lynn Dobson Director
Jenny Freeman Director
Larry Pounds Director
Liane (Lee) Russell Director
Sandra Goss Executive Director

***Hold the Date: Oct. 1 = Annual Meeting
at Cumberland Mountain State Park
Two Speakers, Lunch, Hikes***

See page 11, ¶ 9A