

# TENNESSEE CITIZENS for WILDERNESS PLANNING

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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
1B	BSF General Management Plan	BSF Superintendent	"Portions of Adjacent Area must be off-limits to ATVs!"
2B	Cherokee Forest Plan	By 11/9, submit comments	"Reduce timber harvest; increase wilderness; etc!" (see 2B)
2C	Southern Forest Resources Assmt	USFS, FWS, EPA	"Add Cumberland Plateau as Small Study Area; etc!" (see 2C)
2D	Roadless Areas protection in NFs	Pres. Clinton	"Sincere thanks! Get regulations finalized without delay!"
2F	State laws to protect forests	Justin Wilson	"Support strong, comprehensive legislation!"
3A	Split in state parks management	Gov. Sundquist	"Strengthen resource-management portion of parks system!"
3B	Frozen Head land acquisition	Gov. Sundquist	"Work toward acquiring Love Mt portion, too!"
3C	Fall Creek Falls	Vice Pres. Gore	"Support the LUMP; rule out re-mining!"
4A	Conservation education	Gov. Sundquist	"Reestablish Office of Conservation Education in TDEC!"
4B	Big Bryn #2 mine	TDEC	Comment on NPDES permit
4C	Abandoned mine clean-up	US Rep.; Pres.; Vice Pres.	"Spend AML Fund for what it was collected for!"
4D	Smith Bend acquisition	Foothills Land Conservancy	Request educational materials and brochure
4G	Tax reform	Your State legislators	"Tax reform needed to fund conservation programs!"
6B	Smokies' horrible air quality	US Rep. & Senators	"Allow EPA to enforce revised NAAQS!"
7	Proposed lease of Parcel ED-3	DOE and Oak Ridge	"There are numerous valid concerns about leasing ED-3!"
8A	Inter.Approp.'s dangerous "riders"	Pres. Clinton; Sens. & Reps.	"This bill <u>must</u> be vetoed!"
9	TCWP events, activities		Attend these meetings, outings; participate.

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Dear Senator Doe  
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe  
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President  
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Sundquist  
Respectfully yours,

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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  
Web contacts: <http://www.house.gov>, and <http://www.senate.gov>. General contact info: <http://www.jcv.org>

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Mission Statement: See back of Nominees page

## Two pieces of very good news:

1. Moratorium on BSF trails construction (¶1A)
2. Gulf Tract gets needed \$\$ (¶2A)

### 1. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

#### A. Great news: a trail-construction moratorium for the Big S. Fork

Our strongly expressed concerns about a proposal to develop a large multipurpose trail with associated road extensions (NL228 ¶2B), and about the methods by which horse trails in general were being constructed (NL226 ¶2B), have been heeded. The National Park Service has done what we urged them to do: impose a moratorium on all trail construction until a Roads & Trails Plan has been generated. Such a Plan must follow the General Management Plan (GMP).

#### B. Implications for the BSFNNRA GMP

Because there will now be strong pressures from certain trail users to generate a Roads & Trails Plan, there is some danger that the GMP (which must precede that Plan) may get rushed through in its present, unsatisfactory state (NL228 2A). To remind you, the latest draft of the GMP, while in some ways an improvement over the original one (NL225, special insert), is much worse in one respect: none of the proposed management units, except for the Gorge Area, now excludes All Terrain Vehicles. ATVs are excluded from the Gorge Area anyway because of the language of the authorizing legislation, so the GMP draft gives no additional protection.

Some argue that this problem can be "fixed" by the specifics of the Roads & Trails Plan. However, to use an analogy, the GMP is like the Constitution, under which individual laws are promulgated. An individual law does not give permanent protection unless it is backed by the permanency and authority of the Constitution.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** We need to send a loud and clear, yet simple, message before the draft GMP gets cast in stone: the GMP must designate a portion of the Adjacent Area that is kept off-limits to All Terrain Vehicles. Send a short letter, postcard, or e-mail as soon as you can to Superintendent Reid Detering, BSFNNRA, (4564 Leatherwood Rd., Oneida, TN 37841; 423-569-9778; e-mail BISO\_Superintendent@nps.gov).

#### C. Park Service meets TCWP request for high-level meeting

In a letter of Sept. 21 to Jerry Belson, Director of the Southeast Region of the National Park Service, TCWP expressed its strong concern about the direction in which the Obed Wild & Scenic River and the Big South Fork NRR A seem to be heading. In particular, we are concerned about the lack of leadership (still no Obed superintendent), the lack of adequate funding for resource protection and operations, and the lack of effort toward acquiring the rest of the lands that are authorized for completing the parks. In our letter, we requested a meeting with Mr. Belson to discuss the future of these parks. We expressed our willingness to travel to Atlanta, but would prefer if he could come to this area to personally view the resources and potential threats to them.

Mr. Belson subsequently instructed Reid Detering, the new superintendent of the Big South Fork NRR, to set up a meeting with us, and this will take place in the near future. In addition Mr. Belson also hopes to meet with us personally. We look forward to some positive and productive interactions.

#### D. Tennessee Paddle 2K (TP2K) to stress Obed conservation

A big rendezvous of numerous area paddling clubs and conservation groups, planned for the April 7-9 weekend in Wartburg, will focus on conservation of the Obed system and the Obed National Wild & Scenic River. Dale Robinson, whose brainchild this is, has already secured co-sponsorship from a large number of paddling groups (including the American Whitewater Association), some conservation groups (TCWP and NPCA), and the Park. We view this event as an excellent opportunity to increase popular and political support for the several things still badly needed for Obed protection (e.g., funding for land acquisition and resource protection). As a consequence, the TCWP Water Issues Committee is working to include conservation items among the activities.

Prominent among the planning teams being organized is the Conservation Team, which includes Danielle Droitsch, NPCA (457-7775), Chuck Estes (482-7374) and Ralph Harvey (423-974-8387 or 974-5553), TCWP. TCWP will have an educational booth at the Wartburg celebration area, which will probably be located in the open

space between the Obed Visitor Center and the County Court House. Other possible activities being considered by the TP2K Conservation Team are a stream-ecology and water-sampling event, a wild-flower walk, and rafting of Nemo Rapids provided for people who have had no river experience. Additional or alternative suggestions would be most welcome, as would offers of help.

## **E. Big South Fork enters Watershed Management cycle**

For its water-quality assessments and regulations, IDEC's Division of Water Pollution Control has, since 1996, used a watershed management approach that employs 5-year management cycles. The Big South Fork watershed has just entered Year 1 of the cycle, which begins with planning and data collection.

TCWP members Tom Berg, Marcy Reed, and Lee Russell attended the kick-off public meeting at Jamestown on Sept. 14. We learned that the studies will be conducted by two DWPC offices: the Knoxville office is handling the eastern half (New River watershed, White Oak Creek, Bear Creek, etc.), and the Nashville office the western half (Clear Fork watershed, North White Oak Creek, etc.).

At the meeting, we listed the following among potential problems that should be addressed in the studies: effects of large-scale logging; pollution from abandoned mining sites; impacts of water-supply and other small impoundments in the watersheds; recreational use that might cause erosion, such as ORVs or ATVs. A National Park Service representative, like us, also mentioned water-supply impoundments as potential problems (water quantity is a water-quality issue). He added brine from oil & gas well injections, and sedimentation sources of various kinds. The BSF watershed supports over 25 mussel species, including 5-6 listed as endangered or threatened, some of which reproduce only in this watershed.

Incidentally, the removal of the old Brewster Bridge (now replaced by the ultra-high H'way 52 bridge) will adversely impact endangered mussels, unless the piers are left in place. Unfortunately, the decision on whether or not to do this will be entirely an interagency matter, with no place for public input.

## **F. We meet with Obed climbers concerning need for a Plan**

Three TCWP members met on Oct. 18 with 3 leading and responsible members of the climbing community. We discussed our concerns about resource damage within the Obed WSR that has been caused by some less-than-responsible climbers (NL226 ¶1C), and about the fact that an infrastructure has been established, without planning or review, on lands intended to be wild.

The 3 climbers present were clearly concerned about avoiding resource damage. They offered to work with us to repair some of the damage that has already occurred, and they proposed to develop (with input from us) a pamphlet on avoiding damage and on the implications of the "wild" classification of the river system. Such a pamphlet would be distributed through climbing-supply stores. Most important, they agreed that a Climbing Management Plan needs to be developed, and that they would participate in requesting one.

Such a Plan would be executed within the spirit of the legislation and the provisions of the already approved General Management Plan. It would designate regions of the gorges in which climbing trails would be either permitted or forbidden, and would specify the types of development allowed in creating such trails. Our very positive meeting with the climbers was an important step in achieving a Climbing Plan and in establishing good lines of communication.

## **G. Appreciation to Comm. Hamilton**

In appreciation for his important role in brokering a successful compromise on the Tier-3 (ONRW) designation for the Obed (NL228 ¶1; NL229 ¶1A), TCWP will present Commissioner Hamilton with a framed photographic enlargement of a view of the Obed gorge (photo by Bill Russell), inscribed with our thanks. The presentation will be made during the Commissioner's appearance at the SAMAB meeting in Gatlinburg on Nov. 2.

## **H. Emory River Watershed Assoc. may be formed**

[Contributed by Joni Lovegrove]

Interested citizens and stakeholder of the Emory/Obed area have been meeting over the past 3 months to discuss the possibility of starting an Emory River Watershed Association. This would promote watershed awareness through

educational opportunities and activities for stakeholders of all ages in the region. Attendance at the meetings has included landowners, farmers, businessmen, government employees (state, county and federal), local water-district board member, educators and other interested citizens.

The meetings have covered a number of diverse topics. General information for starting a watershed association was presented by Tom McDonough (TVA), who also listed opportunities for attending water-quality workshops. Ed Smith discussed Best Management Practices in forestry. Among other subjects were grant opportunities, and the TDEC's 5-year water-quality assessment/condition of the Emory River watershed. The next meeting will focus on streams impacted by abandoned mining operations, and there will be a session to brainstorm future opportunities that interested stakeholders may get involved in. Hopefully, the group will be able to encourage local citizens to accept the challenge of working with government and industry toward acceptable management of the natural resources while preserving local culture, customs, and economics.

## J. Obed capsules

[From the Obed Watershed Assoc. of Cumberland Co.]

- Celebrate the Obed River with Song and Music, Sunday Nov. 7, 2:30-3:30 p.m. CST, Lilly Bluff overlook. Carpooling from the Highland Plaza (Kroger) at 1:30 p.m. For further info, call 931-484-0937.
- Mead Corporation has bought timber rights to a large acreage in the headwaters of the Clear Creek, near Mayland and I-40. It is reported that they intend to clear cut the property over the next 5 years and have already built extensive logging roads into the area. Unless erosion is very carefully controlled, there could be extensive damage to aquatic species downstream. Because no regulatory tools are presently available, citizen pressure on Mead Corp. would seem important.
- The Crossville Urban Growth Plan, as addressed by a recent joint Planning Commission meeting, projected rapid growth, a water-supply dam on the Caney Fork, roads for commercial development on the north- as well as south-side of I-40, and a growth area designated in Clear Creek headwaters. (For further info, contact Don Clark at 931-277-5467, or clarkjd@multipro.com)

## 2. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST AND OTHER FOREST ISSUES

### A. Outlook good for Gulf Tract

[Contributed in part by Dan "Wingfoot" Bruce]

Located between the French Broad River and the Smokies, partly on the west slope of Max Patch (one of the finest grassy balds), overlooked by 9 miles of the A.T., and almost surrounded by national forest land along the Tennessee-N.C. line, the 6,820-acre Gulf Tract clearly needs to be added to the public domain instead of being sold for commercial development. The latter, however, looked like a distinct possibility unless the US Forest Service could come up with sufficient funds to purchase the tract from Champion International, the present owner.

At our last report (NL229 ¶5A), the Clinton Administration had recommended the required \$3.5 million for purchase of the Gulf Tract, but a Senate appropriations committee had allowed only \$500,000, and the corresponding House committee zero. Now, as a result of strong grassroots pressure (in which TCWP played a part), the Conference Committee on Interior Appropriations has reported out an FY 2000 budget that includes the full \$3.5 million funding for purchase of the entire Gulf Tract. Unfortunately, the conference committee's overall Interior Appropriations bill includes a number of dangerous anti-environmental riders (none having to do with the Gulf Tract issue), so Democrats on the conference committee withdrew their signatures from the conference bill, but the full House nevertheless passed it (¶8A, this NL). If the Senate, too, passes the bill and sends it to the President, he will probably veto it because of the terrible riders.

Should this probable scenario come to pass, it is unlikely that we will lose the Gulf Tract appropriation when the bill is reworked, since the veto has nothing to do with this item. However, the process could drag on for weeks until we have a final bill that can be signed by the President into law. We can only sit tight until then and feel good about having played a part in what will (hopefully) be a major victory for protection of critical lands. You can view great color photos of the Gulf Tract at [http://trailplace.com/gulf\\_index](http://trailplace.com/gulf_index)

### B. Forest Plan for the Cherokee

[Contributed by Marcy Reed and Jimmy Gronon]

The US Forest Service (USFS) has developed the so-called Rolling Alternative for

the management plan of the Southern Appalachian National Forests, which include the Cherokee NF (CNF). This alternative attempts to add prescriptions for NF units based largely on bits and pieces of comments from the various user groups and stakeholders interested in how the forests are managed.

As stated by the USFS, the goal of the Rolling Alternative is to address:

- the Forest Service's overall Natural Resource Agenda
- the Regional Forester's emphasis areas
- the issues common to all National Forests
- the issues unique to each National Forest.

According to the USFS' "Southern Appalachian Forest Plan Revision Update," the theme and emphases of the Rolling Alternative are to maintain and restore ecosystems to ensure healthy watersheds; provide for sustainable and diverse ecosystems; support viable plant, wildlife, and fish populations; and provide for high-quality recreational opportunities.

A chart in that publication provides the following broad-scale look at some preliminary allocations in the composite of Southern Appalachian Forests (excluding North Carolina):

- ~400,000 acres for ecosystem restoration/maintenance areas
- 200,000+ acres of remote areas
- zero acres for forest product emphasis areas
- ~500,000 acres for landscape habitat emphasis areas,
- ~620,000 acres for recreation/scenic emphasis areas
- ~90,000 acres for old growth forest
- ~230,000 acres of special areas (Appalachian Trail, etc.)
- ~350,000 acres of wilderness (existing plus recommended).

Overall, the Rolling Alternative has some good elements and some disappointing and very bad ones. It goes a fairly long way towards protecting or maintaining some of the key Tennessee Mountain Treasures in the southern end of the CNF. In several cases, these prescriptions do not go far enough towards protecting wilderness, and in some cases they are actually destructive of wilderness values.

Additionally, although zero acres are specifically set aside for forest-product emphasis, commercial harvest can still take place under the guise of protecting forest health,

restoring or maintaining ecosystems, or habitat restoration. Most of the Cherokee National Forest would fall into a category where commercial harvest is allowable under certain conditions. The plan calls for enough wood products to come out of the forest to ensure a stable supply of timber to local industries over time. However, a study quoted at the October 23 meeting (in Unicoi) showed that, in 1992 (current figures were not available), the Cherokee National Forest had over 9 million visitors that brought in over \$8 million from tourism. That same year logging brought in only \$1 million. Because our National Forests only provide for a very small percentage of harvested timber, and because that timber is heavily subsidized, it is perhaps time to consider eliminating the bulk of timber harvesting in our National Forests.

We urge you to comment on the Rolling Alternative (details in box below). Ask the USFS to:

- Reduce or eliminate the amount of timber harvested in the CNF and at the very least reduce the number of prescriptions that allow for logging. If harvesting is to continue, ask that the size of clearcuts be reduced to 10 acres or less.
- Increase the amount of acreage set aside for wilderness and roadless areas
- Reduce the area open to motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes and ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles)
- Provide the highest level of protection for watershed and riparian areas
- Place emphasis in the CNF on recreation and ecosystem protection, rather than on timber harvest.

Several meetings have been held to get public opinion on the Rolling Alternative. The first two sets of meetings (Oct. 4-23), following introductory sessions, required participants to work in facilitated groups to identify items of concern with the proposed management plan, compile a list of concerns, and discuss possible improvements. The USFS planning team will review the possible improvements and make recommendations to the Forest Supervisor and staff.

The last set of meetings (dates and locations below) is directed toward reviewing and fine-tuning the local management prescription allocations. Copies of the management area descriptions and all the alternatives being considered will be available at the meeting. Discussion will most likely focus specifically on

the resources of each particular district. All meetings are from 6-9 p.m.

Oct 28 (Thurs.), Unicoi, TN, Ranger Station, 4400 Unicoi Drive  
 Nov 2 (Tues.), Greeneville, TN, Trinity United Methodist Church, 524 Tusculum Blvd.  
 Nov 4 (Thurs.), Tellico Plains, Ranger Station, 250 Ranger Station Road  
 Nov 9 (Tues.), Benton, TN, Old Ocoee Baptist Church on Zion Valley Road.

The actual draft of the management plan is not due until next July. Once released, there will be 90 days to comment on the plan.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) It is important to attend one of the remaining meetings, which provide additional opportunities to discuss and comment on specific assets of each district.
- (2) By Nov. 9, submit your comments on the Rolling Alternative – see above for suggestions. You can e-mail to [Revision/r8\\_cherokee@fs.fed.us](mailto:Revision/r8_cherokee@fs.fed.us) or mail them to LMP, Cherokee National Forest, PO Box 2010, Cleveland, TN 37320.
- (3) Call Red Anderson (423-476-9737) to request a copy of the management-area descriptions and the alternatives. Ask that you be put on the mailing list for a copy of the draft management plan when it comes out next July.

#### Information sources:

Cherokee National Forest Planner, Red Anderson (423-476-9737); The Cherokee NF website, [www.r8web.com/cherokee/](http://www.r8web.com/cherokee/).

Info on USFS terminology, and action suggestions, are also available from Dean Whitworth (Sierra Club) 423-727-7214.

those of the USFS. State forestry agencies are also included in the project team.

On behalf of TSRA, Mary Buckner recently urged the study team to address the following issues:

- Effect of timber-harvesting methods on water quality
- Impact of conversion to pine plantations on biodiversity
- Impact of coal-fired power plants (i.e., SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> air pollution) on forest health
- Recommendations for laws and regs to enforce Best Management Practices
- Examination of environmentally sensitive harvesting techniques.

This list may give you some ideas on issues to urge the team to address. We might, in addition, suggest the need for considering cumulative impacts when individual permits are issued; the need for notice and reporting requirements when cuts beyond a certain size are contemplated; and the placement of regulatory authority into agencies other than merely forestry departments, whose concern is primarily commercial timber.

TSRA also recommended that the Cumberland Plateau be considered an initial small study area to document the impact of current demands on the forests, watersheds, communities, and local economies. This is an excellent suggestion that each commenter might want to reiterate.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** As soon as possible, send comments to David Wear, USFS, PO Box 12254, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. And/or e-mail to the following:  
 USFS: [mdombbeck@wo@fs.fed.us](mailto:mdombbeck@wo@fs.fed.us)  
 FWS: [jamie\\_clark@fws.gov](mailto:jamie_clark@fws.gov)  
 EPA: [fox.chuck@epa.gov](mailto:fox.chuck@epa.gov)  
 Visit the project Web site at [www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain](http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain) and send comments.

#### C. Southern Forest Resource Assessment

The important, comprehensive multi-agency assessment of private and public southern forest resources (NL 228 §3A and §7B) has a two-year deadline and a huge potential agenda. Yet the budget is a trifling \$200,000. The status of forest resources must be evaluated for 13 states, as well as for one or more selected smaller areas. There clearly won't be any money for new research, and some of the existing information is outdated. In addition to the US Forest Service (lead agency), federal agencies involved in the study are EPA, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and TVA, and it is to be hoped that they will be equal partners, as well as matching resources and staff time with

#### D. President decrees long-term protection for national forests

On Oct. 13, President Clinton directed the US Forest Service to develop (and propose for public comment) regulations to provide long-term protection for most or all of the inventoried roadless areas, as well as for smaller areas in national forests that warrant protection. The final regs are to reflect the best available science and give careful consideration to the full range

of ecological, economic, and social values inherent in the roadless lands.

Merely having a president assert that national forests have a higher purpose than to supply timber is a watershed departure (double-meaning intended!) from prior national policy. (Past administrations have been entirely biased toward timber production, even ignoring environmental law where national forests were concerned.) Pres. Clinton made the announcement in a Virginia national forest, suggesting a shift in attention to the Southeast, just as much of the nation's timber cutting has shifted to our region.

In the Cherokee NF, under existing plans, 345,000 of 632,000 acres (55%) are open to logging and road construction (a mere 10.6% are permanently protected from timber harvesting through Wilderness designation), and there are 1,400 miles of roads. The new regulations proposed by the President would protect about 87,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas in the Cherokee (we don't yet have information about additional smaller areas). Nationwide, 40 million acres in national forests (a little over 20%) would be protected from road building (unfortunately, Alaska's Tongass NF was not included in the blanket protection). The process that culminated in the President's recent announcement began with a moratorium on road construction and timber sales in roadless areas, announced by USFS Chief Mike Dombeck in January 1998 (NL220 ¶1).

As expected, forest industry groups are crying foul. There are several ways in which the Clinton plan might not come to fruition: the needed administrative actions (finalizing the regs) might not be completed before the president leaves office; an unsympathetic next president could reverse it; an unsympathetic Congress could impede it. **LET THIS BE A REMINDER OF WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THE NEXT ELECTION!**

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Express your sincere appreciation to Pres. Clinton (address p.2) and urge that the regs be finalized as quickly as possible. Watch for opportunities when you can comment on the proposed regs.

## **E. Court shuts down timber sales on 110,00 acres nationwide**

The US Forest Service has for years allowed timber sales under a loophole called the

"categorical exclusion," which asserts that timber sales below a certain size are not subject to the provisions of NEPA (the National Environmental Policy Act). In September, a federal District Court judge ruled that the USFS had acted illegally. This judicial ruling, which will affect 110,000 acres nationwide, is the first one to affect the National Forest System as a whole.

## **F. State legislation needed to protect forests**

[Contributed by Gil Melear-Hough, SOCM]

The second half of the 2-year legislative session starts on January 11, 2000, and efforts continue to protect Tennessee's forests. TCWP's ally, Save Our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM), has two forestry bills in the legislature, ready to go. [See NL227 ¶3A for additional forestry bills, Ed.]

- The Tennessee Forest Practices Act, SB 1584 (Fowler)/HB 427 (Stulce), also known as the "Comprehensive Bill." This would return the Division of Forestry from the Dept. of Agriculture to the Dept. of Environment and Conservation, require permits for commercial harvesting above a certain acreage, require licensing of loggers, require Best Management Practices, require permits for chipmills, etc. (see NL227 ¶3A for more details).
- The Tennessee Forest Industries Economic Development and Taxpayer Protection Act, SB 1754 (Kyle)/HB 1570 (Curtiss). Modeled on a successful Kentucky law of 1995, the bill requires the State to undertake a forest-resource assessment, and to analyze the impacts of potential over-harvesting, prior to granting economic incentives for wood-products industries to locate in Tennessee.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- (1) Contact Justin Wilson, Deputy to the Governor for Policy (G 10, State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37243, or [jwilson@mail.state.tn.us](mailto:jwilson@mail.state.tn.us)). Ask him to support strong comprehensive forestry legislation. If possible, add personal reasons for believing that we need to protect our forests from the increasing demands of industrial harvesting and chip mills.
- (2) Host an in-district meeting with your State Representative and/or State Senator. Gil Melear-Hough has offered to help organize such meetings, which are incredible powerful. Call him at the SOCM office, 423-426-9455.



### 3. STATE PARKS

#### A. Split in State Parks management

Starting Oct. 1, the State Parks Division, formerly managed by Asst. Commissioner Walter Butler, was split in two. Pam Hewlett Luman was named Assistant Commissioner to manage all retail and marketing aspects, and to direct the state's 7 resort inns, 8 golf courses, 9 restaurants, marinas, and Parks-operated gift shops. Walter Butler, continuing to manage the remainder of the State Parks Division, will focus on cultural and natural interpretation and conservation, park facilities and their maintenance, and park properties in general. This administrative change was touted as a move to strengthen the resource-management role of the traditional state park system.

TCWP's Joni Lovegrove subsequently wrote to Gov. Sundquist, asking for specifics of this stated objective. The following were among her points:

- Concern that manpower will be sapped from the already depleted resource-management staff.
- Concern that Planning Section personnel that dealt with resource issues have been dispersed.
- A recommendation that revival of the Office of Conservation Education would be fitting for the newly constituted Parks Division (see 14A, below).
- A recommendation that parks programming be focused on nature interpretation.
- A concern that park inspector teams are ignoring resource aspects of park management and concentrating on resort aspects.
- A strong request to expedite land acquisitions and not use any of the existing land-acquisition funds for resort development.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Gov. Sundquist (address on p.2) and urge him to implement the stated motives of the split and, in fact, strengthen the resource management portion of the State Parks system. Support any of Joni's points that you feel strongly about. If possible, send copies to Comm. Hamilton and Asst. Commissioner Butler (401 Church St., L&C Tower, Nashville, TN, 37243-0435).

#### B. Frozen Head -- prospects for partial acquisition

[Contributed by Joni Lovegrove]

We started over two years ago on our efforts to have the state acquire 3,200 acres surrounding Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area.

These lands, which had then just been bought by the Forestland Group (FLG), constitute the viewshed and watershed for much of Frozen Head.

Little do visitors to Frozen Head realize how much of what they see is not in public ownership. Next time you stand on the porch of the Visitor Center, notice that the boundary line goes only to the creek. FLG owns everything beyond the blue markers, all the way to the top of the mountain. Similarly, if you look out the back of the Visitor Center you will see that the Boundary Trail is only a few feet from the door; all the land beyond is also owned by FLG.

The Forestland Group clearly states that it is an investment company and must show a profit to their investors within a 10-year period. We are nearing Year 3 and the state still hasn't acquired any of this land. "The primary product of the firm's acquisition and management strategies," states the FLG portfolio, "is valuable sawtimber." FLG is presently clear-cutting on the Emory River; this is a valid concern and should encourage the state to expedite the process of acquiring the Frozen Head tract.

Current state acquisition mechanisms make the process very slow. Because purchase of 3,200 acres would deplete the State Acquisition Fund, TDEC (Tenn. Dept. of Env't and Conservation) decided that it would initially purchase only a portion of the property (Love Mountain Tract) and obtain the remainder (Bird Mountain Tract) as money became available. The order of acquisition was subsequently reversed, with Bird Mountain coming first. Bird Mountain is on the left of the valley, as you drive up toward Frozen Head, and it is slated to be traversed by several miles of the Cumberland Trail.

If the Bird Mountain acquisition does go through, it will probably be all we'll see from this administration for Frozen Head. We need to keep pushing until the *entire* acquisition is completed -- how ever long that may take!

The following are some arguments in support of this land acquisition:

- Natural and cultural-resource protection
- Several rare and endangered species have been identified on this land
- 15 archeological sites were identified in a 1983 inventory
- The Boundary Trail is actually partly on FLG property

- 3-4 miles of the Cumberland Trail are designated to go through this property
- Potential developments in FLG tracts would be incompatible with Goal 1 of the State Park's Master Plan
- Logging would cause immediate adverse impacts on Flat Fork Creek, which is a designated reference stream
- Protecting Froen Head's watershed and watershed is an economic "plus" for the area
- The earlier designation of the area in question (i.e., the new FLG property) as Unsuitable for Mining under Federal law (SMCRA) was a very strong State and Federal statement in support of protecting the aesthetic resource of Froen Head. Acquiring the land would complete this protection.
- We waited for years, in vain, for the previous owner to be willing to sell the land. Now, with FLG, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact Gov. Sundquist (address p.2) to work toward acquiring the whole tract, including Love Mountain. Perhaps the willing seller, FLG, can enter into a contract to hold the land until the state is able to purchase it. Send a copy to TDEC Commissioner Hamilton (401 Church St., L&C Tower, Nashville, TN, 37243-0435).

### C. Fall Creek Falls -- final countdown for LUMP

The final EIS on the SOCM/TCWP Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition (LUMP) is scheduled to be available for review by the end of October. During the final review period (30 days) comments will be accepted, but no formal hearing is likely to be held. A decision on the LUMP is expected before the end of the year.

During the past 2-3 months, committed members of SCM, TCWP and friends have sent over 3,000 postcards to Vice President Gore asking his support. Now, with the EIS about to be issued and a decision to be made soon thereafter, it is more important than ever to keep up the pressure.

[The following paragraph is condensed from the TDEC Hot List]

The State of Tennessee has held many meetings with OSM. Recognizing that designation of the area as unsuitable for mining could be a temporary solution, the State sought new alternatives that would provide a permanent solution to protecting the park and would clean up existing abandoned mined land which is contributing to water pollution in the park and surrounding area. For a summary of the State's position, visit the TDEC Web site: <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/epo/fallcreek/fallcreek.htm>. Technical Contact, David Turner

(423-594-5529); Policy Contact, Dodd Galbreath (615- 532-8545).

What the above means is that re-mining is offered by the State as an acceptable form of reclamation in the Fall Creek Falls (FCF) watershed. SOCM and TCWP have issued an official statement that re-mining is not acceptable for the following reasons:

- It would disturb the highly acidic and toxic Sewanee coal seam
- The FCF watershed is no place to experiment with new technologies
- To make re-mining economically feasible, the operation would have to disturb an area much larger than the current abandoned mines
- An OSM rule published 2/12/99 exempted re-mining operations from standards of the federal surface mining law.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Without delay, contact Beverly Brock, Office of Surface Mining in Knoxville (423-545-4103 ext.146; [bbrock@osmre.gov](mailto:bbrock@osmre.gov)) to request a copy of the Final EIS, so you can provide informed comments; if needed [the SOCM office, 423-426-9455, will have additional copies available].
- (2) Contact Vice President Gore and urge him to support the Fall Creek Falls LUMP (Old Executive Office Building, Washington DC 20501, 202-456-2326; [vicepresident@whitehouse.gov](mailto:vicepresident@whitehouse.gov))
- (3) In all communications, strongly oppose re-mining as a "solution."

#### D. Friends of Pickett being formed

[Contributed by Frank Hensley]

Pickett staff are forming a group called "Friends of Pickett State Park," and they're hoping that many of us will join. To do so, send a postcard to:

Pickett State Park  
Attn: Meredith Mullen  
4605 Pickett Park Highway  
Jamestown, TN 38556.

A complimentary subscription to the TCWP Newsletter is being sent to the park office. [In our next NL, look for interesting news on protective land acquisitions around Pickett.]

### 4. OTHER STATE ISSUES

#### A. Office of Conservation Education should be reinstated

[Contributed by Joni Lovegrove]

Starting in 1938, the Tenn. Dept. of Conservation had an Office of Environmental

Education, headed by Jim Bailey. For years, this office was the home of many fine programs and teacher workshops. Later, it also served as the home for nationally recognized programs such as Project Wild, Project Learning Tree, and Project Aquatic. However, about 3 years ago, after being transferred to the Dept. of Education, the Office of Conservation Education was abruptly abolished.

In a recent letter to Gov. Sundquist concerning the split in our State Parks Program (see ¶3A, above), Joni Lovegrove recommended revival of an Office of Conservation Education as very fitting for the newly constituted Parks Division, providing the State is indeed serious about the Division's mandate for preservation and resources management (see ¶3A, above). Environmental education is the key to changing the current mindset and the mindset of the future. Reestablishing the Office of Conservation Education would further the Parks Division's mission and would also be a good public relations tool.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Gov. Sundquist (address on p.2) and urge that the Office of Conservation Education be reestablished in the State Parks Division of the Tenn. Dept. of Environment & Conservation.

#### **B. Permit renewal requested for Big Brush #2**

Background: Over two years ago, SOCM and TCWP sued the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) for granting the Skyline Co. a permit for its Big Brush #2 mine that failed to require adequate water-quality monitoring, among other things (NL218 ¶5B). The lawsuit was largely successful in decreeing improved monitoring (NL226 ¶5D).

Skyline has now requested a renewal of its NPDES (water discharge) permit, with modifications to waste-treated water draining into Big Brush Creek and Gladly Fork in Van Buren and Sequatchie Counties. Unfortunately, this NL reaches you too late to encourage your participation in a 10/28/99 Water Pollution Control Div. hearing on this renewal request. TCWP was represented by Exec. Dir. Marcy Reed.

The Big Brush mine is located near Fall Creek Falls SP, though not in its watershed. However, Skyline has mining operations within the watershed, too (see ¶3C, this NL, for article

on LUMP). SOCM has found that Skyline\* repeatedly violated its permit, with high levels of toxic and acidic substances entering the ground and surface water. The following additional points are made by SOCM.

- According to information supplied in water-monitoring data collected by Skyline Coal Co. and OSM, each of the toxic-materials handling plans has failed
- No significant restoration plans, maintenance, and protection of water resources are recorded within the permit
- The amount of treated wastewater discharged over the next five years will affect the Sequatchie Watershed. Insufficient water monitoring data from the permit make it difficult to evaluate these impacts.
- 3 of the 4 previously permitted sites in the area are now perpetual treatment sites. This is a strong indication that the Big Brush site is also a candidate for severe acid and toxic mine drainage problems.
- \* [The Skyline Co. has stated that it is going out of business. The SOCM Stripmine Committee is somewhat skeptical in view of its experience with other mining companies that have used this tactic to stop opposition.]

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Written comments can be submitted to Don Owens, Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation, 2700 Middlebrook Pike, Suite 220, Knoxville, TN 37921-5602; or fax (423) 594-6105

#### **C. Need to clean up abandoned mines**

The estimated cost to clean up Tennessee's 283 abandoned coal mines (which continue to have major adverse impacts on water quality, among other things) is \$29 million. The Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Fund has accumulated \$1.5 billion, but this sum is being used to offset the federal deficit, so 11,000 abandoned mines nationwide remain unreclaimed. The AML Fund is scheduled to go out of business in 2004.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Get your Congressman, Pres. Clinton, and Vice President Gore (addresses p.2) to support spending the AML Fund on what it was collected for. This would not only clean up the mines and our waters, but would create jobs — 1,000 in Tennessee alone.

#### **D. Campaign to acquire Smith Bend for cranes and other wildlife**

[Contributed by Randy Brown, FLC]

The Foothills Land Conservancy has launched a \$1.9 million fundraising campaign to save Smith Bend on the Tennessee River. This tract of land consists of 2,500 acres located in Rhea County TN. Smith Bend is used by more than 20 species of ducks, 26 species of shorebirds, several threatened songbirds, and a growing flock of sandhill cranes that over-winter at the upper end of the Chickamauga Reservoir. The wetland portions, once purchased, will be managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) as a refuge, and the upland portions as a wildlife management area.

The cranes will be arriving in November. They can be viewed from the observation area at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge off Hwy 60 just north of Birchwood, TN. You may obtain a road map from the Conservancy website (see box). To help increase awareness and interest in the Smith Bend Campaign, the Foothills Land Conservancy is offering a school curriculum packet, poster and video about Smith Bend free of charge to area schools and educators.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** To request the educational materials or a Smith Bend brochure, visit the Conservancy website at [www.foothillsland.org](http://www.foothillsland.org), or call 1-800-601-9763.

Note by Ed: The Mead Corp. is selling the tract for \$6.9 million, toward which TWRA will spend the equivalent of 2 years' worth of State Wetlands Acquisition Fund money (~\$5 million). For other interesting facts about this acquisition, see NL228 ¶5E.

#### **E. Committee to review OHV Policies**

[Based on info from TDEC's "Hot List"]

OHVs (Off Highway Vehicles) include 4x4s, ATVs, dirt bikes, etc. Users of such vehicles constituted a high proportion of those who testified at public meetings held on Tennessee's first comprehensive Greenways and Trails Plan (NL228 5D). The State is currently putting finishing touches on this Plan, which was developed by the Governor's Council on Greenways & Trails through the Recreation Resources Division.

Because of demands by OHV users, and problems associated with this form of recreation, a special committee is being convened to review

state policies governing the use of OHVs. These vehicles are increasing in popularity and use. Issues to be discussed include noise and environmental impact, and the fact that many outdoor enthusiasts do not wish to share trail areas with motorized recreationists. Liability for private, state, and federal landowners must also be addressed, as well as regulations against trespassing.

The Committee is comprised of state and federal agency representatives and motorized- and non-motorized-recreation representatives. The strategic planning process will probably last one year. The Committee will recommend how Tennessee should manage this form of recreation. For information on the committee and on the Greenways and Trails Plan, contact Ellen Williams (615-532-4968).

#### **F. Re-licensing for Tennessee dams**

[Information supplied by Philip Young]

Most of our dams are owned by federal agencies (TVA, Corps of Engineers) and are exempt from licensing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). There are, however, two major dams in Tennessee that belong to a set of 4 privately-owned ones operated under a single FERC license. They are Calderwood and Chilhowee Dams on the Little Tennessee River in Blount and Monroe Counties. The license was issued in 1955 and expires in 2005. Currently, a scoping document is being developed that will guide technical studies to take place in 2000-2001. Deadline for this document is Dec. 4.

Is there any interest among our readers in the dam-removal alternative? If not, is there any interest in shaping the scoping document? Does anyone have any expertise in benefit/cost analyses of dam removal? If you say "yes" to any of these questions, contact Philip Young, [pyoung1@utk.us.utcc.utk.edu](mailto:pyoung1@utk.us.utcc.utk.edu).

A new web page has been set up to inform and encourage environmental and recreational groups to participate in the relicensing. Visit <http://web.utk.edu/~pyoung1>

#### **G. Tax reform is key to funding conservation programs**

From items in this and earlier NLs of this year (e.g., NL228 ¶3D), it should be clear that Tennessee's conservation and environment programs are in a very sorry state financially, and that protection of our lands and waters will suffer increasingly as time goes by. Overall, Tennessee ranks 47th in state spending and 50th in

tax revenues. In a recent interview, TDEC Commissioner Hamilton said: "We have a tax system that doesn't work for this day and age. ... I encourage folks who are concerned about environmental issues to contact their legislators and tell them that they support funding for these and other critical programs. We need tax reform ..."

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** How about it folks? The legislature will soon be called back for a special session on taxes. Contact your legislators without delay to tell them how you feel! (See Political Guide for addresses, etc.)

## H. Comments on

### proposed ARAP program

The Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit (ARAP) program applies to the alteration or destruction of our states streams, rivers, and wetlands. ARAP regulations must be as strong as possible to ensure the protection of our waters. The present NL unfortunately reaches you too late to alert you to a series of important hearings on the State's proposed program. We suggest you contact the Tennessee Clean Water Network (cleanwater@igc.apc.org, or call Danielle Droitsch at 423-457-7775) to find out whether written submissions are still in order, and what the suggested talking points are.

## 5. TVA ISSUES

### A. Two Reservoir Management Plans

#### • Melton Hill Reservoir Land Management Plan

The TVA Board approved this Plan on April 21, choosing the Preferred Alternative (B). The alternatives were described in some detail in NL225 ¶7C. TCWP strongly recommended support for the alternative (B) that has now been adopted. Among our several reasons for doing so was that the Worthington Cemetery tract (which we are committed to maintain as an environmental education area, see also ¶9E, this NL) was assigned to the "industrial" zone in Alternative A, but to "Sensitive Resource Management" in Alternative B. For further information on this Plan, call 423-988-2440.

#### • Lower Watts Bar Management Unit: Draft Plan and DEA

This Draft Plan addresses lands along both shorelines of Watts Bar, from the dam upstream to Tennessee River Mile 543. The TVA-managed

public lands comprise 3,481 acres, including the Foothill Peninsula, the dam reservation and several embayments. TVA prefers Alternative C "because it would result in wildlife habitat enhancements, improved forest vigor, increased collaboration with conservation groups and TWRA, and improved recreational opportunities."



The comment period ends Nov. 20. If you have questions or want to request a copy of the Plan/DEA, call Richard L. Tornison (423-988-2444) or Ralph Jordan (423-632-1604).

### B. TVA and EPA to collaborate on environmental protection

In late August, TVA and EPA's SE Regional Office signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to share expertise and resources in trying to solve the region's environmental problems. This is actually a renewal of a similar MOU the agencies had 15 years ago, but which had been allowed to lapse. Specific efforts, which have not yet been announced, will probably include reduction of air pollution, reforestation of clear-cut lands, and wetlands restoration. EPA's regulatory and enforcement side will apparently not be involved in the agency interactions, which will be concerned primarily with research, data gathering, and brainstorming.

### C. Regional Resource Stewardship Council for TVA

TCWP wrote to TVA Chairman, Craven Crowell, requesting to be considered for the environmental-organization seat on the proposed Regional Resource Stewardship Council. This is a public advisory group designed to assure that, in the absence of Congressional oversight (since there is no longer any Congressional funding), components of the non-power program other than flood control and navigation will not be allowed to wither away.

## 6. SMOKIES NEWS

### A. Superintendent Wade leaves

Great Smoky Mountains NP Superintendent Karen Wade left the Park on October 22, 1999 to become Director of the National Park Service's Intermountain Region. We are sorry indeed to see her go, but congratulate her on the major promotion. The Regional Office she now heads is

located at Denver, CO. Assistant Superintendent Phil Francis will be Acting Superintendent at the GSMNP until a successor is named. (Contact Bob Miller 423-436-1208 for further information.)

## B. Smokies Caucus meets on Air Quality

[Based on item in TDEC's "Hot List"]

Tennessee Senators Thompson and Frist and Rep. Zach Wamp met in Washington on Oct. 19 to discuss Smokies air-quality issues. Participating in the meeting were Tracy Carter, TDEC Administrator for Environmental Programs and Acting Chair of the Southern Appalachian Mountain Initiative (SAMI), Jim Renfro (NPS), Niki Nicholas (TVA), Stephen Smith (Tenn. Valley Energy Reform Coalition, TVERC), and representatives from EPA, Friends of the Smokies, and the East Tenn. Ozone Study Group (ETOS). Impacts from TVA power plants and from private automobiles were identified as issues to be addressed. Senator Thompson was interested in what steps the federal government could take after SAMI releases its policy recommendations to the States, and he applauded SAMI for using sound science.

[Note added by Ed.: Already by mid-September the Park had broken last year's record for the number of days on which ozone pollution exceeded unhealthy levels.

1997: -22

1998: 44

1999: 47 by Sept. 13 - with weeks still left to count in the summer ozone season.]

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Your Representative and Senators (addresses on p. 2) need to know that EPA must be allowed to enforce the revised National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for Ozone ( $O_3$ ) and Particulate Matter smaller than 2.5 microns (PM 2.5). See NL229 ¶3B for background.

## 7. OAK RIDGE: PROPOSED LEASE OF PARCEL ED-3

[Contributed by Warren Webb and Ellen Smith, AFORR]

More than 80 people turned out on Sept. 29 for the Department of Energy's (DOE) public meeting on the proposed lease of more greenfield land (Parcel ED-3) to CROET for industrial development. Although DOE had announced their intent to prepare an EA (Environmental

Assessment) back in July, questions raised by individuals and organizations apparently convinced the agency that a public meeting was needed.

Parcel ED-3 consists of 450 acres adjacent to Blair Road and Highway 58 near the K-25 site, including much of the pre-Oak Ridge community of Wheat. (A map of the site is on the Internet at <http://www.dornet.org/aforr/ed3map.GIF>) Although most of the land was used as a crew camp during construction of K-25, it reverted to a natural state after WWII.

In their many comments and questions, meeting attendees voiced concern over how DOE and CROET have been handling the development of Parcel ED-1, and suspicion about DOE's commitment to communication and to mitigation of environmental impacts. Concerns were expressed about, among others, the specific nature of the intended action; DOE's intentions regarding a buffer area shown on project maps; DOE's piecemeal approach to changing land uses; fragmentation of the Oak Ridge Reservation; protection of the Wheat historic district; enforcement of mitigation measures; CROET's suitability to manage the property; and economic impacts on the community.

Schedule: DOE indicated a two-week comment period (ending about October 13) on the scope of the EA, and release of a draft EA for public comment around the end of November.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Although the "formal" comment period may have elapsed, it's never too late to let DOE and the community know that you have concerns.

- Write a letter to *The Oak Ridger* editor Ron Bridgeman (or e-mail to [rbridg@oakridger.com](mailto:rbridg@oakridger.com), or to [letters@oakridger.com](mailto:letters@oakridger.com)), with copies to, (a) Mayor Jerry Kuhaida (107 Pembroke Road, O.R., email: [jkuhaida@oak-ridge.tn.us](mailto:jkuhaida@oak-ridge.tn.us)) and (b) Leah Dever, Manager, DOE, Oak Ridge Operations (P. O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8700).
- Write a letter to DOE with your comments on the proposed action and requesting a copy of the draft EA for review. Address your comments to: Walter Perry, Community Relations Manager (DOE Public Affairs Office, Federal Building, 200 Administration Rd., P.O. Box 2001, M-4, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. Fax 423-576-1665; e-mail [perrywn@oro.doe.gov](mailto:perrywn@oro.doe.gov)). Be sure to send a copy to Leah Dever (as above).

## 5. NATIONAL ISSUES

### A. Interior Appropriation, loaded with harmful riders, passes House

The Interior Appropriations bill for FY2000, HR.2466 (which provides \$14.6 billion for the nation's primary land management agencies) contains many items we support — including the \$3.5 million for the Gulf Tract (12A, above). **BUT**, it is so loaded down with riders that are incredibly harmful to the environment that it must not become law in its present form. These riders, among other things, attack the Endangered Species Act, weaken national forest and rangeland management, and give special favors to extractive industries. Naturally, no opportunity was given for public comment or debate on any of these riders (aptly called "tag-along legislation").

On October 4, the House passed a motion instructing its conferees to remove anti-environment riders from the conference report. Despite this, the conference report emerged with virtually all anti-environment riders from both the House and Senate versions of the bill left in, and, on top of these, conferees added at least 3 new and equally harmful riders. There are now 20 in all. The bill also fails to provide even minimally adequate funding for the President's Lands Legacy Initiative, which is the basis for a fully and permanently funded Land & Water Conservation Fund, LWCF (NL229 ¶8A).

Despite all this, and in contravention of their own vote of Oct. 4, the House passed the Conference Report on H.R. 2466 by a vote of 225-200 on October 21. Within the Tennessee delegation, "NO," the pro-environment vote, was cast by only 3 Representatives — Clement, Gordon, and Ford. Democrat Tanner and all 5 Republicans (Jenkins, Duncan, Wamp, Hilleary, Bryant) cast the anti-environment "YES" vote.

The Conference Report still needs to be passed by the Senate (no vote has yet been scheduled) before it goes on to President Clinton for his signature. Clinton has indicated that he will veto the bill because of the anti-environment riders it contains. Because there was no veto-proof majority in the House when it passed the bill, the veto would likely stand.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Contact your Representative (P.2) and thank him if he cast the pro-environment vote ("NO"), but

objecting if he voted "YES," thus passing 20 dangerous anti-environment riders. Ask your Rep. to sign Rep. Vento's letter to the President, urging a veto.

- (2) Urge your Senators to vote against the conference bill and to sign Sen. Durbin's letter to the President, urging a veto.
- (3) Support the President in his intention to veto the bill in order to remove the riders (address on p.2)
- (4) Urge your Representative and both Senators to support a permanently and fully funded LWCF program through whatever compromise legislation emerges (possibly in the Omnibus Spending bill).

### B. Sec. Babbitt cleared of allegations

After a 19-month investigation by an Independent Counsel, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt was cleared of all allegations against him. He was one of 6 Clinton Administration officials who were targets of such investigations which, in aggregate, have cost taxpayers \$84 million to date.

### B. Presidential debates on conservation issues

Mark January 10 and 12 on your calendar. That's when Republican and Democratic candidates, respectively, participating in the Iowa caucuses will debate agriculture, conservation, energy and environment issues (acronym: ACE debates) at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The debates, which will be broadcast live nationally, are sponsored by two Iowa publications, the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, and the Izaak Walton League of America.

### C. How would George W. Bush be on the environment?

When you elect a president, you indirectly elect a cabinet. The Nov./Dec. issue of *SIERRA* (the magazine of the Sierra Club) has an extensive article on the people that George W. has used in environment-related positions in his Texas administration, and the people he would most likely use in a national administration. Send a self-addressed, stamped (55c) envelope if you'd like a copy.

### E. Home Depot changes course

Home Depot is currently the world's largest retailer of old-growth wood products. A 2-year campaign of pressure (including boycott campaigns) has now succeeded. In August the

company announced that it would end sales from endangered areas by the end of 2002. While we don't as yet know how such areas will be defined, it appears that consumers do have some powers over corporate giants. We hope that Home Depot will be a leader in positive change elsewhere in the business world.

## 9. TCWP NEWS

### A. TVA Lands and Waters are Annual Meeting focus

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Information, Recreation, and Conversation Register Now!

For the November 13 Annual Meeting, TVA experts Judith Bartlow and Dan Ferry join longtime TVA observer Steven Smith in a panel on the future of TVA's public lands and waters and the planning for water-supply resources. This morning program will be held in the Tea Room at Norris Dam State Park.

Following a brief business meeting and box lunches, attendees will choose among many opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors at a convenient location. One can hike the River Bluff Trail with Judith Bartlow, or a moderate-to-difficult trail to be announced by hike leader Russ Manning. For the non-hikers, there are pontoon-boat rides, the Lenoir Museum, assorted games and puzzles, or enjoying the brisk autumn on the Tea Room deck overlooking the lake.

A new feature of the Annual Meeting is the Silent Auction (see 9B, below). Don't miss this opportunity to purchase jewelry, plants, gift certificates, and much more. Proceeds benefit TCWP. As the day draws to a close, there will be hors d'oeuvres and wine with the wrap-up of the Silent Auction.

✱ It is not too late to register for the Annual Meeting! (see your brochure)

This family-oriented day is a project of the Service Committee's Annual Meeting Subcommittee and the State Parks Committee. For more information about the Annual Meeting, call Sandra K. Goss (423-522-3809) or e-mail [skgoss@erpc.com](mailto:skgoss@erpc.com).

**Late-breaking added attraction.** During our continental breakfast, we'll have the opportunity to meet and converse with all of the Regional Directors and other staff of the National Parks & Conservation Assoc. (NPCA) an organization with which we have frequent

valuable interactions. (They are meeting elsewhere at Norris and will join us for the early part of the day.)

### B. Trade Treasures for Treasures -- the Silent Auction

[By Mary Lynn Dobson]

TCWP has been successful at helping save many treasures of Tennessee, and there are others out there that need our attention. A fun way to support our efforts is to take part in the Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting. We all have wonderful things that are not as appreciated as they should be. (Clue, if you got it as a gift two years ago and have never used it, pass it on.)

Bring these to be auctioned at our Annual Meeting where they are sure to find a new home. Do some bidding of your own. Remember, 'tis the season to be on the lookout for unique gifts for friends and family. A few of the items you may look forward to bidding on: wine tasting glasses, used fiberglass kayak, plants, National Audubon magazines, Hummingbirds video, a stained-glass window.



Your participation will help TCWP save the flowing streams and wild lands that are our treasures of Tennessee.

### C. Coupons have raised money for our office rent

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Our Kroger Cares coupons program has, in just over a year, raised enough money to pay for one year's rental of our TCWP office. The coupons are certificates, negotiable just as if they were cash, for purchasing goods at any Kroger store. They come in denominations of \$10, \$25, \$50, and \$100, and you buy them from TCWP for just these amounts. TCWP, however, buys them from Kroger at a discount, and it is this discount that goes toward funding TCWP expenses, such as our office rent.

The coupons are very convenient: they save you from having to write a check for your purchase, and the cashier gives you any amount of change in cash. They also make great gift certificates for that hard-to-buy-for friend or relative. They will be available at our Nov. 13 Annual Meeting. If you want to get some prior to this, or for more information, call Marcy Reed at 691-8807.



### D. Outing to Burgess Falls, Dec. 4

[Contributed by Hal Smith]

TCWP will sponsor an outing to Burgess Falls State Park to view a spectacular series of three falls (First, Middle, and Big Falls) plus several



pretty cascades. The area is located 8 miles south of Cookeville on TN 135, but the scenery is worth the 2-hour driving time (each way). Hiking distance is only about 2 miles RT, but the trail is steep in places.

We'll meet Saturday, Dec.4, 8:30 a.m., in the parking lot of Food City (formerly Winn-Dixie), S Illinois Ave (near intersection with Turnpike) for carpooling. Anyone starting from another location should call Hal Smith (865-483-5731) to arrange an alternative rendezvous site. Bring lunch, beverage, rain gear, camera. Preregistration is not required but would be helpful (call Hal).

## E. Public Lands Day was success at Worthington

[Contributed by Judith Bartlow]

TCWP continued several years of strong involvement in Worthington Cemetery Cedar Barrens. In 1991, Larry Pounds was the first botanist to recognize the cedar barrens characteristics in the lands surrounding the old cemetery. It was fitting that he began this year's Public Lands Day activities with a plant-identification walk around the Barrens.

National Public Lands Day spotlights the last Saturday every September as a day on which citizens may volunteer time and labor to improve public lands. Approximately 30 people turned out to cut invasive Japanese wisteria, a vine introduced in the 1830s as an ornamental. This beautiful vine has fragrant, very showy, blue racemes. Unfortunately, it twines around trunks of trees and kills them by girdling or over-topping. After a short safety discussion, volunteers split into groups and cut the large climbing vines. Volunteers worked hot and heavy for 1 1/2 hours, and then broke for a hot-dog lunch (courtesy of TVA). TVA staff treated the cut wisteria stumps with herbicide.

Work resumed in the afternoon with construction of a footbridge, a project organized, financed, and led by Frank Hensley. Crossing a boggy spot in the trail, this new bridge is artistic as well as functional -- an exceptional job. TCWP volunteers were also joined by students from Oak Ridge High Ecology Class. Thanks to everyone who worked on the Public Lands Day projects!

## F. Mini-prairie outings successful

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Several TCWP members enjoyed the September Saturday outings led by botanist Larry Pounds. Touring treeless areas around Jefferson Junior High School, Haw Ridge, and Elza Gate Park, participants learned about various

domestic and exotic plants that grow only in sunny locations. The trips were more informative than many a botany class. The third and final outing was held in conjunction with National Public Lands Day (see above).

## G. TCWP Speakers Bureau ready

Our Speakers Bureau is now up and running, with volunteers available to give an informative and enjoyable presentation to any group that has an interest in learning about Tennessee's natural lands and waters and what can be done to protect them. The presentation includes our 35-minute informative and beautiful slide show. If any group you belong to or have contacts with (organization, club, church, school) would like to have such a program presented, contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, [skgoss@esper.com](mailto:skgoss@esper.com); Marcy Reed, 423-691-8807, [marcyreed@aol.com](mailto:marcyreed@aol.com); or Lee Russell, 423-482-2153, [russellb@sprynet.com](mailto:russellb@sprynet.com).

## H. Fund-raising efforts: Community Shares

The TCWP Board recently decided to become a member of Community Shares. While this will provide a potential new funding source, it will also require us to contribute some time and effort. We would greatly appreciate offers of help from our membership. The number of hours per year that would be required from any one person is not large, but can be very meaningful. To volunteer (or to find out more before deciding), contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, [skgoss@esper.com](mailto:skgoss@esper.com), or Marcy Reed, 423-691-8807, [marcyreed@aol.com](mailto:marcyreed@aol.com).

Marcy attended an informative fund-raising workshop in Atlanta on October 9.

## J. e-mail network reminder

e-mail lists can be an invaluable aid for achieving quick communication among members, or to send out urgent alerts. If you have an e-mail address, kindly send it to the TCWP e-mail address, [TCWP@kornet.org](mailto:TCWP@kornet.org), and/or to Marcy Reed, [MarcyRReed@aol.com](mailto:MarcyRReed@aol.com) and Sandra K. Goss, [skgoss@esper.com](mailto:skgoss@esper.com).

## K. Earth Day: 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary

TCWP will partner in a celebration being planned by the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE) for April 22, 2000, the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. We need volunteers to help with the planning and execution. Contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, [skgoss@esper.com](mailto:skgoss@esper.com).

## L. Special mentions

You will find special mentions of volunteer activities and achievements by TCWP members scattered throughout this NL. Here are a few more

- At the recent "Centennial Celebration of our Public Lands" in Asheville (NL229 ¶10), Conservation Achievement Awards were presented to 4 Tennesseans: Ray Payne, Arthur Smith, and Bill Russell, and Lee Russell. All 4 are TCWP members.
- Charlie Klabunde was recently featured in a hiking edition of METROPULSE.
- Mike Frome, nationally known author (e.g., *Strangers in High Places*) received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Union Institute from which he had earned his doctorate in 1993. His introducer noted that Mike had "used his considerable writing talent ... to become a staunch guardian of the environment ... refusing to let special interests or unwise policy compromise either his journalistic or environmental ethics." Quite recently, Mike contributed a very interesting article on *Heroes of the Early Wilderness Movement to Redrock Wilderness* (the magazine of the Southeast Utah Wilderness Assoc.).
- Special thanks to Ruth Young, who, for 16 years, stored 18 boxes of old TCWP files; and to Mary Lynn Dobson, Eric Hirst, Charlie Klabunde, and Lee Russell who recently moved these boxes to the TCWP office (where they await filing).
- On Oct. 13, Patrice Cole hosted a free beer-and-pizza party at Barley's for students of the UT Ecology Department in hopes of recruiting new TCWP members.
- NL229 was assembled by Frank Hensley, Charlie Klabunde, Dick Raridon, Juanita Williams, Sandra Goss, and Marcy Reed.

## 10. CALENDAR; JOB OPENINGS; RESOURCES

Events and deadlines calendar. (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 423-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com; or Marcy Reed, 423-691-8807, marcyreed@aol.com)

- Nov. 2, Lincoln Memorial Univ., Harrogate, TN, 6-9 p.m., TVA meeting about Norris Reservoir Land Plan and Clinch/Powell Watershed Plan. Call David Harrell, 423-632-1636.

- Nov. 1-3, Gatlinburg, TN, SAMAB (Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere) Conference (Call 423-974-4583, or samab@utk.edu).
- Nov. 7, Lilly Bluff Overlook, 2:30-3:30 CST, Celebrate the Obed with Song & Music (¶11).
- Nov. 9, deadline for comments on Cherokee Plan (¶2B).
- Nov. 13, TCWP Annual Meeting Norris State Park (¶9A).
- Nov. 20, deadline for comments on TVA's Lower Watts Bar Plan (¶5A).
- Dec. 4, TCWP Outing to Burgess Falls (¶9D).
- Dec. 10, Unitarian Church, TCWP Holiday Party (tentative).
- April 7-9, Wartburg and Obed, Tennessee Paddle 2K (¶1D).
- April 22, 30th Anniversary of Earth Day (¶9K).

### Job Opening

Executive Director (overseeing a staff of 7) for the Dogwood Alliance, a regional network working to protect southeastern forests from the proliferation of chip mills and the expansion of industrial forestry. Deadline, Nov. 5. Call 828-883-5889 or e-mail info@dogwoodalliance.org

### Resources

- View the Master Plan for State Parks at [www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/mpsp.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/mpsp.htm)
- "Landowner's Options for the Voluntary Conservation of Land in Tennessee" is an informative booklet developed, with support from TVA, by the Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation. The Foundation is also available to consult on possible options for protecting private land. Call them at 615-386-3171, or e-mail [tenngreen@earthlink.net](mailto:tenngreen@earthlink.net)
- Earth Day Network 2000 is organizing events, planning strategies, and sharing solutions for Earth Day and for its special Clean Energy Agenda. Contact them at 91 Marion Street, Seattle, WA 98104; 206-264-0114; [earthday@earthday.net](http://earthday@earthday.net)
- The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has joined the Conservation Fund to launch a Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse (877-476-9297; [www.trailsandgreenways.org](http://www.trailsandgreenways.org))
- *Status and Trends of the Nation's Biological Resources* is a new 986-page report by the US Geological Survey that reflects the expertise of 200 scientists. Many of the voluminous findings are quite depressing (e.g., the South's 144 big reservoirs have put 73% of its freshwater mussels and 19% of its fish species in jeopardy). (\$98, Stock No. 024-001-03603-7; 202-512-1800; [biology.usgs.gov](http://biology.usgs.gov)).

## NOMINEES FOR THE 2000 TCWP BOARD

**PRESIDENT:** Jimmy Groton. Works on environmental issues (wetlands) with an Oak Ridge consulting firm. Prior to that, worked for National Park Service for 6 years. Has M.S. in forestry, but does not consider himself a forester. TCWP Board member since '93; Pres. '99; serves on O.R. Env't Quality Advisory Bd. and as environmental rep. on CROET. Active on trails, Cherokee NF issues.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Eric Hirst. Corporate Fellow ORNL, and independent consultant on electric industry restructuring. TCWP member since early 1970s; on Board since '92; V.Pres. since '95. Has handled media contacts and now heads TCWP Service Committee. For past 2 years has spearheaded rebuilding the TCWP infrastructure, including staff support.

**TREASURER:** Charlie Klabunde. Physicist retired from ORNL's Solid State Div. Past pres. and 11-yr. newsletter editor, SMHC. Avid folk dancer. Has served as TCWP Treasurer and organizer of membership records for 24 years, and is pleased to continue this service to the organization.

**SECRETARY:** Chuck Estes. Waste management task manager for Bechtel Jacobs Co. TCWP Board since '95; Sec. '99; chairs Water Issues Committee. TCWP liaison for Scotts Gulf preservation effort. Participated in Obed General Mgmt Plan. Active in E.T. Whitewater Club. Special interests: river protection, WQ issues, forest management

### **DIRECTORS (\* indicates newcomer to Board):**

**Patrice Cole.** Has been regulator for State of Tennessee in water-pollution control; subsequently, ecological-risk assessor for an environmental consulting firm. Currently working full-time for Ph.D. in Ecology. On TCWP Board since '93. Wants to emphasize wilderness values of Smokies and to reduce motor-traffic impacts on area.

**Mary Lynn Dobson.** An avid naturalist who lives near Rockwood. Has been a state park naturalist and has served on the board of the Harvey Broome Group, Sierra Club. TCWP Board '99. Has worked on container-deposit law. Interested in ways wilderness and natural values can be protected on private (as well as public) lands.

**Jenny Freeman.** Involved with TCWP since the late 1970s as Exec. Director (ater, Board Member and Pres. '93-'98), she is serving her current term "at large." Jenny, husband, and 11-year old daughter are traveling for a year in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico, and expect to return in August 2000. She provides input to the Board via e-mail. Her primary TCWP interests have focused on state park issues.

**\*Olive Gaines.** Joined TCWP Board August '99 and is member of Parks Committee. A professional artist, this native Atlantan now lives on 11 acres near Rockwood. Passionate interests include anything involving wildlife, wilderness preservation, and animals in general. In Birmingham, served on boards of Crippled Children's Clinic, Red Cross, Discovery Museum, and Alabama Humane Rescue Association.

**\*Ralph Harvey.** Anesthesiologist and director of small-animal surgery at U.T. College of Veterinary Medicine. Formerly in environmental toxicology at NIH. Joined TCWP Board August '99 and is member of Water Issues Committee. Long involved in whitewater kayaking and other outdoor activities, and belongs to boating and conservation groups.

**Jon Lovegrove.** Currently in her second year on the TCWP Board, she is also involved in other groups -- e.g., the Friends of Fall Creek Falls (board member and newsletter editor) and the Cumberland Trail Strategic Council -- and in conducting Cherokee Culture Presentations. Works on TCWP Parks Committee and is particularly active in issues concerning Frozen Head. Energetically encouraging development of Emory River Watershed Association. Interested in fostering conservation education.

**Liane (Lee) Russell.** Senior Corporate Fellow at ORNL, doing research in mammalian genetics. A TCWP founder, Vice Pres. '66; Pres. '67-'70, '86-'87; Newsletter author and editor, '66-present. Member of Water Issues Committee. Instrumental in authorization and implementation of Big South Fork NRR and Obed WSR; also active in stripmine, wilderness, and public-lands issues.

**NOMINEES FOR THE 2000 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**  
(This Committee will nominate the 2001 Board and Nominating Committee)

**Chuck Coutant.** Ecologist at Oak Ridge National Lab. Served on TCWP Board 1982-1993.

**Maureen Cunningham.** Botanist currently completing Ph.D. thesis at U.T. TCWP Board '89; V. Pres. '90-'91; Pres. '92; Sec. '93-'94.

**Nell McBride.** Director of Rural Legal Services. TCWP Board '90-'94.

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**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TCWP CONSTITUTION**

The TCWP Board of Directors proposes an addition to Article II of the TCWP Constitution. This new paragraph would follow the existing second paragraph, which specifies the method of election of Officers and Directors by ballot at the Annual Meeting. The wording of the proposed additional paragraph is as follows.

"In case a vacancy occurs among Officers or Directors, the remaining members of the Board of Directors may seek nominations from any TCWP member for a replacement. If more than one nomination is received, a simple majority vote of the remaining members of the Board will choose the replacement, who will assume his/her duties at the next Board meeting and will serve for the remainder of the calendar year. That person's name may subsequently be included among the nominees presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting during which election of the Board for the succeeding calendar year occurs."

Constitutional amendments may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of members voting at the Annual Meeting.

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**WHAT IS TCWP?**

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

Contact information on p. 2