



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Taking Care of Wild Places

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

12. ACTION SUMMARY

YNº	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1C	Fall Creek Falls	Gore; Babbitt; legislators	"Thanks for big improvements, but full protection is needed!"
2A	Big South Fork Gen'l Mngt. Plan	Park Service, by May 15	Watch for our mailing; visit TCWP website; then comment.
3A	Raid of land acquisition funds	Several State legislators	"Vigorously oppose HB.2885 (Rinks)/SB.3003 (Cooper)!"
3B	House Mountain	State legislators	"Proceeds of lease or sale must go into Parks budget!"
3C	State bills to protect forests	Legislators: Justin Wilson	"Support bills that protect our water and soils!"
3D	Management of OHVs	Ellen Williams, TDEC	Communicate concerns and ideas
3E	Abandoned coal mines	SOCM	"Help me learn about abandoned mines in my county!"
4A	Road bypasses in Smokies	Park Service, by April 23	"Do not permit this harmful boondoggle!"
4B	Air quality data for Smokies	Park Service	Volunteer to collect data on hikes
5B	TVA's SO ₂ emissions	U.S. rep. and senators	"Facilitate EPA enforcement of stringent AQ standards!"
6C	Major water diversions	State legislators	"Support HB.3002 (McAfee)/SB.3074 (Ramsey)"
7B	Proposed lease of Reservation land	AFORR	Attend meeting on 4/11/00
7C	Pressures on Nat'l Research Park	DOE; Congress; VP Gore	"This valuable natural resource needs protection!"
8A	Wild Forest Initiative	U.S. rep. and senators President Clinton	"Initiative leaves lasting benefit to our country!" "Speedily complete process: include Tongass, smaller areas!"
8B	New National Monuments	President Clinton Your sen.; + Lott, Daschle	"Please designate Sequoia and ANWR coastal plain!" "Oppose all efforts to weaken Antiquities Act!"
8C	Permanent LWCF	Your US Representative	"Strongly support HR.701!"
9	Year 2000 elections	Candidate information	Study their environmental record and positions; Vote green!
10D	TCWP tasks	TCWP	Volunteer for something

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Pres. Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111; Fax 456-2461
president@whitehouse.gov

Governor Don Sundquist
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-9872
615-741-2001; Fax 532-9711

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Sundquist
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist:
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-1264
e-mail: senator_frist@frist.senate.gov
Local: 865-602-7977

Sen. Fred Thompson:
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3679
e-mail: senator_thompson@thompson.senate.gov
Local: 865-545-4253

Rep. Zach Wamp:
Phone: 202-225-3271
1-800-883-2369
Local: 865-483-3366

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.tcv.org>

WHAT IS TCWP? and TCWP contact information -- see p. 20

1. FALL CREEK FALLS - A BIG STEP TOWARDS VICTORY

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is out. In a nutshell: it partially grants the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition (LUMP) for the watershed of Falls Creek Falls. We welcome this as a terrific first step but are working for full designation.

A. Background

On 7/14/95, SOCM, TCWP, and 49 individuals petitioned the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to designate the watershed and watershed of Fali Creek Falls State Park and Natural Area (FCF), an area covering 85,588 acres, as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations. On 11/3/95, OSM declared its intent to prepare a Draft EIS (DEIS). This was finally issued 5/1/98, with the preferred alternative being to deny our petition, but to require a separate EIS process for each mining application in the watershed.

At a public hearing, held 6/18/98 in Crossville, virtually every one of over 350 people who attended were in opposition to the selected alternative; over 40 people said so in the oral comments, and 606 letter comments were received during the comment period, which was extended twice, finally ending 4/29/99.

B. The Final EIS

The FEIS was issued March 3, 2000. It is printed in two volumes with a total thickness of 3 inches. Of four alternatives studied, the one preferred by OSM one is #3: "Designate Specific Watersheds as Unsuitable for all Types of Surface Coal Mining Operations" (note: this includes surface activities in connection with underground mining operations).

The waters in FCF derive from five watersheds. Cane Creek, Meadow Creek, Falls Creek, Piney Creek, and Dry Creek. The first three would be designated off-limits *in toto*. In the Piney Creek watershed, mining would be permitted in the headwaters on a case-by-case basis, if a portion of the proposed operation includes areas previously disturbed by mining and the applicant can demonstrate that re-mining would mitigate impacts from the previous mining. Finally, no portion of the Dry Creek watershed would be designated as unsuitable for surface mining.

All told, of the 85,588-acre petition area, 61,420 (or, 72%) are designated unsuitable for surface coal mining. Both of these acreages, however,

include 19,139 acres for the Park itself, which, realistically would not be mined. Thus 64% of the acreage outside the Park is protected by the Preferred Alternative.

C. The petitioners' position

The comment period for the FEIS has been extended to May 3, after which Interior Sec. Babbitt will issue a formal Record of Decision, which could be based on discretionary criteria as well as mandatory ones. Both SOCM and TCWP are preparing detailed comments (for TCWP, the State Parks Committee has taken on this task).

The organizations, while considering the FEIS's Preferred Alternative (#1B, above) to be a very significant improvement over the 1998 DEIS, are urging Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to make the full designations they requested in the LUMP.

- Concerning the Dry Creek watershed, which feeds a cave system:
The FEIS concludes that this drainage does not qualify as "fragile lands," basing this conclusion on the assumption that flow through limestone caves will neutralize acid and toxic mine drainage. The petitioners challenge this conclusion as having an insufficient scientific basis. On the contrary, there is much reason for concern that such mine drainage could damage highly vulnerable cave biota and other features.
- Concerning the upper Piney Creek watershed:
OSM has provided no evidence that re-mining will improve water quality. In fact, the FEIS contains the information that 7 of 9 surface mines permitted since 1992 in Southern Tennessee have leached acid or toxic mine drainage. The stakes are too high to allow any FCF drainage to be a testing ground for the re-mining process.

SOCM and TCWP have issued a position paper on the re-mining of abandoned mine lands in the Park's LUMP area, making the following points.

1. Current "state of the art" technologies are unproven, often failing to prevent pollution from acid and toxic waste.
2. Re-mining operations would be very likely (for economic reasons) to significantly expand the sites where the original mining occurred.
3. An OSM rule issued 2/12/99 exempts re-mining operations from requirements on environmental standards, bonding, inspection, etc.

4. For cleanup of abandoned mines in a critical watershed, it is surely more responsible to employ stand-alone reclamation than to use re-mining as an incentive.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Write to Vice President Gore (Old Executive Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20501; or email at vice.president@whitehouse.gov), expressing appreciation for the major improvement in OSM's position, but urging him to support full designation of the Park's entire watershed and viewshed. The special values of this area are too great to warrant taking any risks from even limited mining (see T1C).
- (2) Send a copy to Secretary Bruce Babbitt, US Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240; or email to bruce.babbitt@ios.doi.gov
- (3) Send a similar letter to your Congressman and both Senators (addresses on p.2).
- (4) Copies of the FEIS are available from OSMRE, 530 Gay Street, SW, Suite 500, Knoxville, TN 37902; comments should be sent to Beverly Brock at the same address.

will guide future, more detailed plans and management activities for the next 10-15 years. It is therefore very important that we provide the correct input.

The TCWP Water Issues Committee, in concert with NPCA, is conducting a careful analysis of the Draft document and expects shortly to get out a special mailing to TCWP members and others concerning needed comments. At that time, and possibly even earlier, GMP-related material will appear on our website (www.kornet.org/tcwp/).

Our preliminary analysis has revealed many grounds on which the Draft GMP must be criticized.

- (1) The Draft does not have as its overriding objective the preservation of the natural resources of the BSNRRA. The Area is one of the very few places in the Eastern US that we have the opportunity to save in a primitive, natural condition, and provides a rare example of the Southern Appalachian (and specifically, the Cumberlands) landscapes and ecosystems that are disappearing rapidly. These landscapes, and the user experience that may be had in them, must be protected for future generation - for the entire nation. The BSNRRA is not just a local playground.
- (2) The legislation that created the BSNRRA defined two zones, the Gorge Area and the Adjacent Area (all the remaining lands). Unfortunately, in the Draft GMP, only the Gorge Area is given the protection of so-called Primitive management, but this protection was already established by the legislation. Under neither of the two current alternatives (A or B) is there to be any Primitive management in any of the Adjacent Area (see also 7, below).
- (3) Even for the Gorge Area, the GMP does not go beyond the existing minimum prescription (as, in fact, it could, e.g., with regard to establishing at least general criteria for trails and other permitted uses).
- (4) The other management units ("Backwoods" and "Enhanced" Recreation Units, as they've now been named) are described in such broad terms that they potentially permit virtually all existing recreational uses in the entire non-gorge area. Yet, NPS does not have the data to show what impacts these uses have, and to demonstrate that the uses can be accommodated, and to what extent.
- (5) The GMP actually acknowledges current overuses and their adverse impacts, but it fails to put any management emphasis on repairing and

D. Potential sewage problems in watershed

Without public hearings, the city of Spencer, just West of the North end of Fall Creek Falls State Park, is about to receive a permit for a new \$6.4 million wastewater treatment plant. The reason this is of concern is that the plant's discharge would flow into Dry Fork Creek, from there entering the cave system under Spencer Mountain (which could be the longest in Tennessee) where it is likely to have major adverse impacts on the cave biota. Treatment-plant malfunctions are not uncommon; but even with proper function the effluent would be dangerous to the cave biota because, according to experts, the permitted daily maximum pollution load has been set too high for this plant. An alternative path for the plant's discharge would be most desirable.

2. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

A. Big South Fork

General Management Plan

The Draft General Management Plan (GMP) for the Big South Fork NRR was released in mid-February, and the comment deadline is May 15. This is a vitally important document that

containing over-uses and conflicting uses. Instead, it appears to grandfather existing uses and addresses potential additional developments. The CMP process should determine what measures are needed, particularly in the non-gorge area, to protect park resources and visitor experience.

- (6) Criteria are needed for defining conditions under which specific uses might be permitted. The nature of non-gorge area management is of concern not only to that area itself but also to the Gorge Area on which such management has a major potential impact, since the Adjacent Area drains into the Gorge.
- (7) In Nov./Dec. 1998, the National Park Service (NPS) presented and discussed 3 preliminary alternatives. At these meetings there was overwhelming public support for keeping the Area natural, and an overwhelming majority of people supported the Rustic Alternative. Subsequently, NPS did drop the strongly opposed highest-development alternative (Destination Alternative), and there are now only two. Unfortunately, the revised lower-development alternative (A) is now less protective than the formerly strongly supported Rustic Alternative. Specifically, Primitive management has been totally eliminated from all of the non-gorge area.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please watch for our special mailing and visit our website, www.kormet.org/tcwp/. Comments will be due by May 15, to be sent to Superintendent R. Detring, Big South Fork NRRA, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida, TN 37841.

B. TP2K Festival event to benefit Obed

[From a contribution by Dale Robinson]

Tennessee Paddle 2K (2000), a new American Whitewater Festival, will be held April 7-9, with its base in Wartburg. Several paddle clubs, plus TCWP and NPCA, are organizing this event to celebrate the Obed, raise local and national awareness of all that the area offers, and raise money to be administered by TCWP for Obed projects. Lots of paddlers and clubs in the Southeast have already indicated that they plan to attend, and the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association is holding their "advanced" paddling clinic as part of the Festival schedule.

The Obed/Emory watershed with its nearly 50 miles of Class-II to Class-V whitewater is a paradise for paddlers, but the TP2K festival will offer many other activities as well, not only within the Wild & Scenic River but also in

nearby locations, including Frozen Head. There will be hikes, mountain-bike trips, bird watching, wildflower/nature walks, and climbing.

The fun begins Friday, April 7, with recreational paddling, a paddling clinic, and a hike on the Cumberland Trail. Saturday will feature the Dagger Race for the Obed, a 14 mile two-person relay race (coordinator, Daniel Talley, dtalley@utk.utcc.utk.edu, or 865-692-3954), as well as numerous other paddling as well as non-paddling activities.

A public Festival will start about 2 PM in the Wartburg town square. In the event of bad weather, the Festival will move inside a new 10,000 square-foot building nearby. There'll be food booths, exhibits, films, rock climbing trials/demonstrations, live entertainment, and some displays by outdoor-recreation vendors. The Sunday schedule includes more recreational paddling, hiking on the Cumberland Trail, mountain biking, wildflower walks, climbing, etc.

The festival has published a tabloid for which TCWP provided two articles: "How the Obed got to be here - still" (the story of how the Obed was saved from being dammed and was protected as a WSR); and "Introducing TCWP" -- our past, present, and future. There's also an article by Russ Manning about the Cumberland Plateau.

An extensive TP2K website at www.tennesseepaddle.com displays the program and lots of other information, including maps, gauge readings, and descriptions of the river system. The Festival organizers are working with local folks to establish several private campgrounds in the area, and other lodging is available in nearby localities. This information, too, will be on the website. If there is anything you can't find there, contact Dale Robinson at daler@tennesseepaddle.com, or leave voice mail at (865) 909-2622 and be sure to leave a good phone number and good evening time for return calls. During the Festival, the Obed W&S River visitor center in downtown Wartburg will serve as the Festival information headquarters.

C. Meeting with Supt. Detring

On January 12, five TCWP members (Chuck Estes, Boyd Evans, Jimmy Groton, Lee Russell, and Don Todd) had a 3-hour meeting with Superintendent Reed Detring. The Waters Issues Committee had prepared, and sent to Mr Detring, extensive briefing papers on several Obed and Big South Fork issues. For the Obed, these included:

philosophy for management, the Land Protection Plan (LPP), interactions with the Catoosa WMA, Trails Plan, Climbing Plan, water quality and quantity, and operating funds. For the Big South, briefing papers were prepared on the General Management Plan, the Roads & Trails Management Plan, and the O&W corridor.

At the meeting, Mr. Detring discussed some of his positions, constraints, and actions, and we all agreed on the necessity for more intensive follow-up meetings on specific topics. We offered to contribute to several of the NPS efforts and asked to be involved in many of the specific planning activities. If you are interested in our meeting notes (summarizing what he said) and/or our briefing papers (summarizing background and TCWP positions), send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (\$5+).

D. Old Nemo Bridge retained

When the Tennessee Dept. of Transportation began planning for the new Nemo Bridge over the Emory (now built), it offered the old bridge as a donation under the Historic Bridge Marketing Program (NL211 §1F). The old steel-truss bridge, 481 feet long, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It was constructed in 1929 after the "great flood" (which, back in 1965, was used as justification for a proposed dam on the Obed).

The old Nemo Bridge is now starting a new life -- as a pedestrian river crossing for the Cumberland Trail (CT). It will connect the Obed segment of the CT with the Trail's Frozen Head segment. Upgrading for pedestrian use will be done by a partnership between Tennessee State Parks, Morgan County, and the Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC). It was not easy to bring about this solution; the CTC leadership deserves a lot of credit for taking the initiative, and the state agencies for cooperating.

E. Remediation of a pollution source

The River Run Golf Course in Holiday Hills, outside Crossville, drains into the upper Obed. The Cumberland Chapter of SOCM recently asked the TDEC (Dept. of Env't. & Conservation) to do something about the stream-bed and bank destruction that was occurring at the golf course. TDEC subsequently issued a Notice of Violation to the golf course, and remediation work is reported to be progressing.

3. STATE NEWS

A. State park problems;

a bill to oppose vigorously

Even if Gov. Sundquist's proposed \$18.2 billion budget is approved by the General Assembly, there isn't enough money in it, according to TDEC (Dept. of Env't. & Conservation) Commissioner Hamilton, to support operation of all 54 state park units. Consequently, Hamilton has proposed closing 8+ of these units. And if the legislature approves less than the requested \$18.2 billion, additional parks will be closed.

Efforts to prevent park closures have led to two kinds of bills: (a) to charge entrance and/or user fees, and (b) to divert funds from other purposes. It is one of the latter bills that is dangerous.

(a) HB3098 (Rinks)/SB3153 (Cooper), authorizes TDEC to promulgate rules to set fees for entrance into, and use of, state parks and natural areas. Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV, of which TCWP is a member) supports this bill. About 65% of people questioned about fees would support them, provided that the money stays in the parks budget and that all 54 units stay open. Additionally many respondents expressed the sentiment that the money should go toward protecting natural features of parks, rather than for constructing golf courses or resorts.

(b) There are two major bills that would divert some land-acquisition moneys to other park uses. One of these, SB2291 (Crutchfield)/HB2710 (Odom), is innocuous in that it would use a portion of the proceeds from the Local Parks Land Acquisition Fund (note: this is different from the State Lands Acquisition Fund) for administration of the program by TDEC's Recreation Resources Division.

The other bill, however, affects the State Lands Acquisition Fund and clearly merits our opposition and in a hurry, too. SB3003 Cooper/HB2885 Rinks takes money from the State Lands Acquisition Fund and allows it to be spent on state parks maintenance. Although TCV managed to get the bill changed so that the fund shifting would be in effect for only two years, the bill is still very dangerous. (It is comforting to know, however, that even if this bill passes, it will probably not affect purchases that have

already been approved, including, hopefully the onesat Frozen Head and Pickett.)

The State Lands Acquisition Fund was created by the Legislature to acquire valuable buffer properties around our parks and other state areas — properties that would otherwise soon be lost forever to development. This purpose must not be subverted. Any maintenance needs in existing parks are unlikely to cause eternal or irreparable damage. Furthermore, there are alternative places in the budgets of TDEC and other agencies that could provide funds to keep our parks open: e.g., TDEC spent \$1.6 million last year on a marketing contract to advertise new conference centers in parks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Without delay, contact your state legislators and present some of the above arguments in urging strong opposition to HB2885 (Rinks)/ SB3003 (Cooper). Send the same letter also to Matt Kisber, Chairman, House Finance Committee, and to the following members of the House Environment and Parks Subcommittee: Rep. Tommie Brown (chairman), and Reps. McAfee, Curtiss, Scroggs, and Tidwell. Contact information for all State legislators is in your Political Guide.

B. House Mountain among units State proposes to close

[Based on contribution by Marcy Reed]

The 850-acre House Mountain State Natural Area is included in a list of 8+ park units Commissioner Hamilton is planning to close (§3A, above). TDEC and Knox County are working out an agreement whereby the latter can lease House Mountain from the State. Specific terms of the lease will be based on recommendations of TDEC's "park closing committee" that was set up by Hamilton. The House Mountain lease may be written for a 20- to 25-year term and may go into effect shortly after the State's budget is passed. Representatives Boyer and Atchley have introduced backup legislation authorizing the sale of House Mountain, in case the lease arrangement does not go through. It would seem important for the State to retain ownership, so that House Mountain could remain part of the State Natural Areas System.

Worried about the eventuality of closure, the Friends of House Mountain met in December (NL231

¶3B), and again two months later, with several TCWP members. Generally, the House Mountain Friends like the lease idea and are of the opinion that the area might actually be better taken care of by the county. They decided at the meeting to draft a letter to the state, supporting letting the county run and maintain House Mountain. It may, however, be necessary for citizens to keep a watchful eye, since the county has no experience with ecological stewardship issues.

Because protection of some of the undeveloped land outside the Natural Area is also to be desired, the Friends invited Randy Brown of the Foothills Land Conservancy to the February meeting to talk about conservation easements. He kindly offered his assistance in that area, if we are able to interest local landowners in setting up an easement on their property. Two websites have information on conservation easements: www.possibilities.com and www.lta.org. A handbook on conservation easements is available through the latter website.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact your state legislators (see Political Guide) and request that any money from the lease or sale of House Mountain be added to the state parks budget rather than being used to offset the general deficit. To address the broader budget problem, cite House Mountain as an example of why we badly need tax reform.

C. Status of forestry legislation

A package of bills is being refined that is addressing the major water pollution caused by bad logging. It will, hopefully, authorize TDEC to issue stop-work orders in such cases, require the use of BMPs (Best Management Practices), and require prior notification of logging of 10 or more acres. This package is supported by the Tennessee Conservation Voters (formerly EAF), of which TCWP is a member. At this point, no specific bill numbers and sponsors can be given, but we can urge our legislators to support bills that protect against water-quality damage from logging.

SOCM's Comprehensive Bill, SB1584 (Fowler)/HB427 (Stuice) (summarized in NL231 ¶2D), has moved out of the Senate Government Operations Committee on February 9, and was the subject of a legislative hearing in the Senate Environment & Conservation Committee on March 15.

SB 1754 (Kyle)/HB 1570 (Curtiss), SOCM's Economic Incentives Bill (summarized in NL231 ¶2D), has passed the full Senate as well as the House Conservation & Environment Committee. Because of the State's financial problems, the bill is now stuck in the House Finance Ways & Means Committee, even though it costs only \$10,000 to implement.

- Management issues -- (definition of a TN OHV program; who administers program? who sets standards? whomanagesland? etc.)

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Interested citizens are invited to attend committee meetings (one was held March 14) and/or communicate concerns and ideas to Ellen Williams (615-532-4968, or ewilliams@mail.state.tn.us) or through the website at <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/glv/index.html>

WHAT YOU CAN DO: These bills all address various parts of the same problem (the damage from uncontrolled, rampant logging that destroys our soils and pollutes our waters); all deserve our support.

- (1) Contact your state legislators (see Political Guide for contact information).
- (2) Contact Justin Wilson, Deputy to the Governor for Policy (C10 State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37243; e-mail jwilson@mail.state.tn.us) to urge Administration support.
- (3) Urge Senate Speaker Pro Tem Robert Roche and Sen. Environment Committee Chair Ron Ramsey to co sponsor SB.1584; and House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh to cosponsor HB 1570.

An industry forestry bill (HB2846 Tidwell/SB3025 Cooper) is also making its way, both through Senate and House committees.

D. Management of OHV recreation

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation is increasing at a phenomenal rate in Tennessee, and the State is aiming for a coordinated management plan to diminish further user conflicts. To this end, a committee has been set up and charged to develop recommendations. In addition to staff from several state and federal agencies, the committee includes 4 representatives of the public -- two each representing motorized and non-motorized recreation.

The committee should be addressing environmental, social, legal, and economic issues. Among those listed are:

- Land selection -- (eliminate unauthorized and damaging use and divert to designated locations; where are lands that can sustain the activity? should the State lease or acquire lands? etc.)
- Social issues -- (accountability of riders/dealers; conflicts among different land users; etc.)
- Regulatory control -- (trespassing laws; liability; law enforcement; etc.)
- Funding options -- (permanent funding source? Can Tennessee afford an OHV program? etc.)
- Needs assessment -- (current/future demands; economic enhancements; benefit/cost analyses; tourism; etc.)

E. Get interested in abandoned coal mines in your county

The estimated cost to clean up Tennessee's 283 abandoned coal mines is \$29 million (NL 231 ¶4B), but currently our state receives only \$1-1.5 million annually, even though the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Fund has collected \$1.4 billion from severance taxes. To make matters worse, the AML Fund is scheduled to go out of business in 2004.

All interested persons are now being invited to join SOCM for visits to the abandoned mine sites in their own county. In this way, we can learn what these orphan mines are doing to our water and our land, and we will get more fired up to increase pressure on elected officials at all levels. They need to bring about a release of the AML funds, which are already "in the bank."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact SOCM at 423-426-9455, or at amy@socm.org to express an interest in learning more about abandoned coal mines.

F. Cumberland Trail State Park honored by White House

The Millennium Trails Initiative is a collaborative effort of the White House Millennium Council, the US Dept. of Transportation, and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. On October 21, the Cumberland Trail was honored by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton as Tennessee's Millennium Trail. This honor is expected to lend weight to the Trail's relationships with landowner, communities, and financial backers.

4. SMOKIES NEWS

A. Oppose by-pass construction!

The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for accomplishing repairs and modifications to a couple of road tunnels on the Tennessee side of the Newfound Gap Road. In the course of these EA proceedings pressures have surfaced from the gambling interests in Cherokee Indian Reservation to carry out major new road construction that would avoid the occasional weather-related closure of the Newfound Gap Road. Such new construction would (a) scar the mountains, (b) expose acidic soil layers that cause stream pollution, and (c) add hugely to the cost. To get more details, call Bob Miller or Nancy Gray at 865-436-1207; or e-mail to bob_miller@nps.gov or nancy.gray@nps.gov

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Our comments are needed to stop this boondoggle. They are due by 4/23/00 at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738.

B. Park seeking volunteer hikers who'll collect AQ data

Within the Park, ozone is the most pervasive air pollutant affecting vegetation as well as human health. Last year, over 30 species exhibited damage. This year, a project is getting under way to map the pattern of ozone exposure, elevation, topography, and vegetation type. Ozone exposure will be measured in about 40 remote locations across a spatial and temporal gradient. Half of these sites are located along 7 trails, with 2-4 samplers per trail. For 10 weeks (6/19 - 8/28/00), data will be recorded weekly.

The Park would like to have at least two volunteer hikers to sign up for each of the 7 trails. Volunteers for a given trail can share the work (e.g., if there are 5, each one has to hike only twice). The trails are 6-12 miles in round-trip length and are rated from moderate to difficult.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you can volunteer, contact Jim Renfro, Air Resource Specialist, GSMNP, 865-436-1708, or jim_renfro@nps.gov. Let him know which days you would be available, and which trail(s) you would prefer (he'll furnish the list). Also, let him know of others that might have an interest.

C. Elkmont: we support GMP

A closed organizational meeting is scheduled for March 15 for representatives of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, (GRSM), the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer (TNSHPO), and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP). The purpose is to devise appropriate procedures for settling the current controversy about Elkmont, an enclave of cabins that have been leased for decades by well-off private families (NL231 ¶6A).

The Park's General Management Plan (GMP) calls for removal of all of the Elkmont structures. The TNSHPO, on the other hand, wants 60+ of the structures retained. The ACHP, which has assumed the task of resolving the stalemate, will be conducting a consultation process with interested parties. Among those parties is a coalition of 6 conservation groups, including TCWP (represented by Patrice Cole). The coalition has prepared a position paper supporting implementation of the Park's General Management Plan (GMP).

The coalition sees no reason to extend even more privileges to the already privileged social organization that has been leasing the weekend-retreat cabins for decades, while thousands of families that once toiled the land had to leave their cabins at the times the national park was created. Early in the 20th century, Elkmont was a village that participated in the slash logging of the area's virgin forests. The relevant "history" should be the recovery of the forest from its wounds, and not the weekend cabins in areas known as "Society Hill" and "Millionaire's Row."

The cabin group at issue borders, and is partly within, a rare montane alluvial forest. Within that forest type dwells an exceedingly rare population of fireflies which seasonally demonstrates a serial, synchronous flashing.

D. All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, only about half a million acres in size, contains a greater number of plant species than do all of the European countries combined. A recent estimate lists over 1,600 species of flowering plants and 2,200 species of other plants. There are an estimated 20,000 species of fungi, most of them never catalogued. The number of animal species, too, is astounding. They include 59 mammals,

-200 birds, -70 fish, -30 salamanders, 500-700 spiders - to name just a small part of the animal kingdom. Altogether, the Park is estimated to take home to about 100,00 species of living organisms, of which perhaps only 10% have been recorded.

About 3 years ago, the Park was chosen for the world's first ATBI, a task estimated to take 15 years to complete (NL221 ¶7D). The National Park Service (NPS) is partnering with universities nationwide, school groups, nonprofit organizations, and individual volunteers in tackling this huge project. For the Smokies, the ATBI (which might later serve as an inventory model for other parks) will provide a solid, factual, foundation on which to base the protection of the Park's natural resources against adverse influences such as chemical pollution, the introduction of exotics, and fragmentation. A more general predicted benefit of the ATBI is that it will broaden bioliteracy, an outcome that should be reflected in ecosystem management decisions, both inside the National Park Service and in other land and natural-resource agencies.

Among discoveries of the ATBI, recently reported by Morgan Simmons in the *Knoxville New Sentinel*, is a giant earthworm species that appears to live at higher elevations.

E. U.T. Libraries' Smokies projects

Initiated two years ago, the University of Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains collection and bibliography have expanded in many directions and include hundreds of people. The project now issues a newsletter (contact GSM Colloquy, at 865-974-0017, or abridges@utk.edu) and has established a website <<http://www.lib.utk.edu/refs/smokies>>. To view all available material, type Great Smoky Mountains Regional Collection into the dialog box next to "Search for" and choose *Comprehensive Keyword* from the pull-down menu. Among the U.T. files is the Leroy Fox Collection 1927-1998 and the Carson Brewer Collection 1945-1999.

5. TVA ISSUES

A. Advisory body formed for TVA's nonpower programs

[Editor's note: Our Nov. 13 annual meeting made it clearer than ever how many vitally important land and water-protection issues in our area are affected by TVA. We asked ourselves what we

could do to maintain and enhance TVA's environmental-protection efforts; and what serious problems we might face if TVA were to disappear (NL231 ¶5E). We issued a call for volunteers to handle TVA matters for TCWP and to interface with other groups that have a longstanding interest in these issues. David Reister was the first volunteer to respond to this call.]

[The following was contributed by David Reister]

Historically, TVA's nonpower programs were funded by the Federal government. In October 1997, Congress directed TVA to fund the nonpower programs using power funds (as of FY2000, the nonpower program has no direct federal funding), but allowed TVA to refinance its debt and save \$100 million per year for 10 years. When Congress refused to give TVA \$7 million to manage the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL) in 2000, LBL (170,000 acres) was transferred to the Forest Service.

In June 1999, TVA announced the creation of a citizen council to provide advice on managing the nonpower programs (NL230 ¶5C). This Regional Resource Stewardship Council (RRSC) will advise TVA on policies, practices, and priorities among competing objectives and values related to the conservation and development of the public water and land resources of the Tennessee Valley. Items to be addressed by the Council include: operation of dams and reservoirs, navigation and flood control, power supply, water quality and watershed improvement, management of public lands, and wildlife and recreation programs.

TCWP wrote to TVA requesting a position on the Council, realizing, however, that our chances were small because of the way in which nomination privileges had been assigned.

The members of the newly formed RRSC were announced by TVA on February 11. The risk was that TVA would choose a council dominated by utility distributors that want to abolish the nonpower programs. While the largest group are, in fact, distributors, other interests are also represented. My estimates of the size of each group are: distributors (6), elected officials (4), environmentalists (4), and business (5). The environmentalists include: Stephen Smith from the Tennessee Valley Energy Reform Coalition, Julie Hardin from the Foothills Land Conservancy, Bruce Shupp from B.A.S.S., and Philip Comer from the Douglas Lake Land

Owners. As the council organizes itself and begins to give advice, we will find out whether or not TVA has chosen a balanced membership that includes a broad range of diverse views (as required by the Charter for the RRSC). [Note: the 20-person Council convened its first session on 3/17/00.]

The first meeting of the RRSC was held on March 17 in Chattanooga. The Council will probably form subcommittees for each of the five items in its Charter (dams, navigation, water quality, lands, and recreation). The public will probably be allowed to participate in the subcommittees. The TVA web page for the RRSC is: <http://www.tva.gov/rrsc/index.htm>

B. TVA's SO₂ emissions

[Based on a contribution by Glenn Marshall]

A letter from TCWP member Glenn Marshall to Chairman Crowell, commending TVA for its NO_x-reduction program (NL231 ¶5B), brought a response that Glenn has kindly shared with us. It consists of a letter and chart sent by TVA's Executive Vice President Joseph R. Bynum.

After relating the agency's actions concerning NO_x, Mr. Bynum goes on to summarize what TVA has done about SO₂. TVA's SO₂ emissions averaged 2,100,000 tons annually in the mid 1970s, then dropped to 820,000 tons by the mid-1990s, when the agency came into compliance with Phase I of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments. Compliance with Phase II is expected for the early 2000s, when the TVA plants will emit 440,000 tons SO₂ per year, despite the fact that the fossil-fueled facilities now produce 20% more electricity than they did in the mid 1970s. The reductions in SO₂ emissions made to date have been achieved primarily through installation of scrubbers, but also through fuel switches and coal washing. Only fuel switches appear to be contemplated for the near future, and the chart stays level (i.e., no further reductions) through the year 2010 (where it ends). We share Glenn Marshall's sentiment that, while TVA's efforts are most commendable, the 440,000 tons SO₂ emitted per year should not be considered the bottom line.

As for the NO_x reduction efforts (NL231 ¶5B), they also must not be considered the end of the story. NO_x produces ozone-caused smog, and Tennessee is No. 2 in the nation for this phenomenon (followed closely by GA, NC, and

KY). The major utilities in our region (American Electric Power and Southern), and to a lesser extent TVA, are hiding behind a grandfather clause in the 1990 Clean Air Act (NL229 ¶6A), even though most of the plants have substantially increased power production over that of the old facilities that were originally exempted from the Act's requirements because they were supposed to have been on their way out.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your Senators and Congressman (addresses on p.2) that EPA must not be impeded from enforcing more stringent air-quality standards for illegally grandfathered power plants.

C. TVA plans first all-gas-fired plant

TVA's next new power plant will be fired entirely by natural gas, a cleaner source of fuel than coal. Currently in TVA's power-generating arsenal are:

- 11 coal-fired plants
- 4 combustion-turbine plants
- 3 nuclear plants
- 1 pump-storage facility.

While natural-gas combustion turbines have for some time been used for peak power at the coal plants, the new facility will be run entirely on natural gas. It will be built at a cost of \$200 million in Haywood County, about 40 miles north of Memphis, and is expected to operate about 30% of the year when power demand is at its peak.

D. TVA creates Public Power Institute

A research institute that will focus on cleaner energy generation, more efficient electricity use, energy conservation, and new technologies for waste reduction or recycling was dedicated by TVA on January 27. This action by the new Board (NL231 ¶5C) revives an initiative proposed over a decade ago but scrapped by former chairman Marvin Runyon.

The Public Power Institute, with a staff of 60 engineers and scientists, is located in TVA's Environmental Research Center at Muscle Shoals, Alabama. The agency provided \$8 million in first-year funding and is seeking partners. TVA's integrated powersystem is expected to be used as a living laboratory for innovations and solutions. This should demonstrate TVA's unique role while Congress is debating electric-industry deregulation. (TVA's Green Power initiative,

which will represent the first use of green power in the Southeast, was summarized in NL231 ¶5A.)

E. Volunteers helped TVA with bundling valuable seedlings

TVA's botanists have determined that good stabilization of the banks of streams or lakes can be achieved with the right mix of native vegetation that is well adapted to shoreline conditions, and the agency provides free seedling bundles of 63 plants each (NL231 ¶5F). On February 5, eleven TCWP volunteers helped assemble such bundles (see ¶10E, this NL). If all the seedlings get planted and all survive, they will vegetate over 41,000 feet of shoreline. The bundles will be distributed in Blount, Anderson, Morgan, and Roane Counties.

6. RIVER ACTIONS

A. TCWP joins the Cheoah & Little Tennessee Coalition

This coalition will be an active participant in the relicensing process for the dams constituting the Tapoco project. There are 4 such dams: Santeetlah Dam on the Cheoah River, and Cheoah, Calderwood and Chilhowee Dams on the Little Tennessee River. The last two are in Tennessee (Blount and Monroe Counties), the first two in NC. One mile of the Little Tennessee (below Calderwood) and 9 miles of the Cheoah R. (below Santeetlah) are essentially dry as a result of by-passing pipelines. Tapoco operates the dam to generate electric power for the Alcoa Aluminum plant.

Unlike TVA and Corps of Engineers dams, private dams (like Tapoco's) require relicensing by the Federal Power Commission (FERC). The original license (issued in 1955) expires in 2005. Tapoco has chosen a licensing process that entails collaboration and consensus between the licensee and all stakeholders, so that all concerns may be brought to light before the actual application to FERC is filed.

With funds from a grant won by the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN), the coalition has hired a part-time staff person (Catherine Sheehy) and is conducting outreach to the public and the media. A website has been created (www.tcwn.org/tapoco), and there is an e-mail address (philip@tcwn.org) and phone number (865-522-1716) for joining the coalition.

The return of streamflow to the bypassed stream segments has been a special focus of the coalition. While the 9 dry miles of the Cheoah are in NC, they are barely over the Tennessee state line, and the return of water, with its recreational possibilities, would benefit the local economy. Check the website from time to time to keep up with developments.

B. To protect Duck River ecosystem against pollution

TSRA has been awarded a large 4-year grant to assess and reduce pollution in the Duck River, the longest free-flowing river in the state, and one of the biologically most diverse. The objective of the project is to protect this unique ecosystem against water-quality impairment. Biological and physical indicators will be monitored in the hope that potential problems, and especially nonpoint-source pollutions, can be located and corrected in a timely fashion. The money for the grant comes from the Tennessee Environmental Endowment. This endowment was formed to distribute funds from a \$1 million settlement of a successful lawsuit won several years ago by the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC) against the polluting U.S. Dana Corporation.

C. Worries about water diversions

The large river basins of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers are being coveted by states south of us, and by Atlanta, as water supplies. The Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation has introduced a bill into this session of the state legislature that would establish legal authority to allow the state to regulate large water withdrawals before they occur.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your state legislators (contact information in Political Guide) to support HB3002 (McAfee)/SB3074 (Ramsey), the Inter-basin Water Transfer Act.

7. OAK RIDGE AREA

A. Northern greenbelt/North Ridge Trail - much happening

[Contributed by Marcy Reed]

Last August, W. A. (Tom) Thomas took over from Ken and Helen Warren stewardship of the North Ridge Trail (NL229 ¶7A), which TCWP

had constructed over 30 years ago to foster public appreciation of Oak Ridge's northern greenbelt. Tom is now seeking seven TCWP volunteers (individuals, couples, or small groups) who are willing to commit to periodically walking a section of the trail and reporting any problems back to Tom. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sandra Goss (512-3809; skgoss@esper.com) or Marcy Reed (691-8807; MarcyRReed@aol.com).

Tom has lent TCWP the money to have the NRT mapped, using the Global Positioning System (GPS) which will collect the data necessary to develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) map. This map will be part of an overall GIS map of the trails and greenbelts in Oak Ridge. TCWP is working with Greenways Oak Ridge to ensure that the information we collect and the software we use are compatible with what is being used by them.

Most of the signs that once existed for the NRT have been damaged or removed. New, informative, signs should be provided, hopefully with help from the City. Apart from that, the current status of the trail is generally fairly good, although there are areas of damage from illegal vehicle use. City employees recently constructed a new footbridge to replace the old one not far from the start of the Delaware Trail portion of the NRT.

TCWP is planning to produce new NRT brochures with an accurate trail map and the latest trail information. Marcy Reed is seeking funds for these activities, and possibly, if needed, for signs as well.

B. DOE proposing to lease more Reservation land for development. Come to meeting on 4/11

[Contributed by Dev Joslin]

Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) is sponsoring a meeting on Tuesday, April 11 to discuss how the public might best respond to the Department of Energy's (DOE) recent proposal to lease an additional 450 acres (ED-3) for development. DOE has recently released its Draft Environment Assessment (EA) of this proposal and is accepting comments on it until the end of April. At the 4/11/00 meeting, AFORR's Board of Directors will present its concerns about the proposal and about the EA; an audience discussion will follow. A formal response to DOE from AFORR will be developed, and possible written comments will be discussed that individuals might wish to make.

DOE's proposed action is to lease yet another 450 acres to the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET), which would then market and sublease portions for industrial and commercial development. This "Parcel ED-3" includes several large tracts of land adjacent to the intersection of the Oak Ridge Turnpike and Blair Road. The area includes a wide strip of land south of the Oak Ridge Turnpike (Highway 58) across from the old K-25 Site (now East TN Technology Park), as well as land north of the Turnpike along Blair Road (including part of the former Wheat Community).

A public meeting on this proposal sponsored by DOE last September was attended by dozens of citizens who vigorously expressed their reactions to the proposal. The upcoming meeting, sponsored by AFORR, is an opportunity to discuss your concerns, learn more about DOE's latest plans, and determine what you might wish to do in response. The meeting will begin at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11 in the Oak Ridge Civic Center and should last about 2 hours. Complimentary soup and chili and other refreshments will be available to all, in order to stave off any hunger attacks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Come to the meeting on April 11, 5:15 p.m., Oak Ridge Civic Center "Social Room" (across the hall from the gymnasium). A map of the ED-3 area, as well as a summary of the previous public meeting, is available on the AFORR website (<http://www.kornet.org/aforr/>).

C. Development pressures grow on the Environmental Research Park

[Contributed by Dev Joslin]

"They paved paradise and put up a parking lot"

[Jon Mitchell, 1969]

It seems that development pressures will never cease on tracts of land that have tremendous ecological value. The Oak Ridge City Planning Commission is currently in the process of re-zoning the entire western half of the Oak Ridge Reservation (virtually everything west of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory). If the Commission were to get its way, the proposed plan would break up thousands of acres of forest into industrial, commercial, and residential development zones.

Never mind that the Oak Ridge Reservation is the largest tract of relatively unfragmented forested land in the Ridge and Valley Province of East Tennessee; that it contains 27 state-listed

rare plants; that it has seven registered State Natural Areas; that it is home to more species of breeding birds than any other tract in East TN (including the Great Smokies National Park); that it is one of seven DOE National Environmental Research Parks; that it is an International Biosphere Reserve; that 19 of the bird species that breed there are listed among Partners in Flight's species of conservation concern; or that The Nature Conservancy in 1995 listed over 270 occurrences of significant species or plant communities on the Reservation.

The Research Park portion of the Reservation continues to shrink so that it is now less than half the size of the original Reservation. Hundreds of acres of environmentally sensitive land are already currently being bulldozed to create a new industrial park along highway 58 (ED-1 or "Horizon Center"). And the Department of Energy is proposing to give over another 450 acres for commercial and industrial development along this same highway and along Blair Road (¶7B, above). Piece by piece, this ecologically valuable reserve is being whittled away. And now, the Oak Ridge Planning Commission is putting out its "vision" of how the reservation should look 20 years from now — namely, one giant development. Fortunately, much of the land they are zoning remains under the control of the Department of Energy — for the time being. But it appears that it will be a long battle to reign in the pro-development forces' designs on this biologically diverse 30,000 acres, called the Oak Ridge Environmental Research Park.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write letters to local newspapers. Contact federal officials in DOE, your representatives in the U. S. Congress, Vice President Gore. Call or write the Oak Ridge City Council. Contact information is available on the AFORR website (<http://www.kornet.org/aforr/>).

8. NATIONAL LAND-PROTECTION INITIATIVES

A. Wild Forest Initiative Don't rest yet!

It could be one of the largest land-protection efforts in U.S. history: Pres. Clinton's proposed Executive Order to provide long-term protection for roadless areas in national forests would permanently put at least

40 million (and ultimately perhaps 60 million) acres off limits to road building, logging, and mining (NL230 ¶2D). It is unlikely that there'll ever again be such an opportunity to protect our few remaining wild lands.

But it's not yet in the bag. The current period has ended, but timber-industry allies in Congress (and particularly the Senate) are likely to try to block the Initiative by saddling critical legislation with riders that would reverse the Order, or would extend the rule-making process into the next Administration. They already tried riders in the closing hours of the 1999 session. We must develop more Wild Forest Initiative allies in the Congress; our messages to legislators are crucial.

Additionally, another round of comments will be needed following publication of the EIS. Those who gain from exploiting the national forests will turn out in full force at the hearings, and we must be there, too. There may also be court challenges of the Order, and some of the conservation community's legal defense funds may need financial support.

The timber industry and its Congressional allies have already launched a misinformation campaign in the media. Myths must be combated with facts, such as:

- The Initiative does not close any existing trails or roads.
- The Initiative does not create fire-prone forests. In fact, the risk of wildfire is greater in logged forests than in undisturbed ones, partly because of the inflammable slash, and partly because of the roads, which bring in people — who are the major source of fires.
- Information on the Initiative is readily available to any interested person. In addition to the over 200 information meetings that have already been held, a website may be accessed at <http://roadless.is.fed.us>.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Contact your U.S. senators and representative (addresses on p.2) and tell them why you feel this Initiative is of such major importance for our country. Ask them to let you know their position.
- (2) Thank Pres. Clinton (contact info on p.2) for the Initiative and urge, (a) a speedy completion of the administrative process; (b) inclusion of roadless areas down to 1,000 acres in size; (c) inclusion of the Tongass National Forest.

B. More land protection initiatives by President Clinton

Our hope that President Clinton would designate the 1 million-acre Grand Canyon-Parashant and some smaller areas in Arizona and California as National Monuments was fulfilled almost while we were writing about it in NL231 ¶88. There were protests from Arizona politicians, but, as with Grand Staircase-Escalante, the Nation will be forever grateful for these wonderful gifts.

In mid-February, the President began exploring the idea of protecting 330,000-440,000 acres of sequoia redwoods in California through designation of a National Monument. This would include about one-third of the Sequoia National Forest. Presently, though the trees themselves (many of them several thousand years old) are protected from logging, the entire ecosystem around them is not.

The National Resources Defense Council is also urging the President to protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by creating the Arctic Wildlife National Monument. This would forever insulate "America's Serengeti" from the constantly reiterated requests for oil & gas exploitation.

National Monuments are created under the Antiquities Act of 1906, which was first used by Pres. Theodore Roosevelt and then by presidents of both parties after him, to secure several valuable lands, including the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, additions to Acadia National Park, and numerous designated areas in Alaska. But now, anti-conservationist forces in the Senate are hell-bent on severely limiting use of the Antiquities Act. We must stop them.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Encourage Pres. Clinton (contact info on p.2) in his idea to designate the Sequoia National Monument, and urge him to create the Arctic Wildlife National Monument. You can also send him an e-mail petition by going to the NRDC website at www.nrdc.org.
- (2) Contact Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, and your own two senators (addresses on p.2), and urge them to oppose any efforts to weaken the Antiquities Act.

C. Prospects for permanent Land & Water Conservation Fund

By the end of 1999, very encouraging progress had been made toward achieving a permanent, fully funded LWCF (NL229 ¶8A). In November, with surprising bipartisan support, the House Committee on Resources passed HR.701 (CARA), a compromise bill guaranteeing an annual LWCF allocation of \$900 million without requiring an annual appropriation (NL231 ¶7). Because HR.701 was born of months of negotiations between ideological opposites (committee chairman Don Young, R-AK, and ranking minority leader George Miller, D-CA), the bill is less than perfect; but a perfect bill would never even have passed out of committee in this Congress. The bill was expected to come up before the full House in March.

The Senate, which includes several stridently anti-environmental Western members, is viewed as the really big hurdle. It was not until Feb. 29 of this year that a companion bill to CARA was introduced in the Senate. This bill would direct approximately half of the annual revenues from offshore oil and gas development to provide over \$2.8 billion in conservation funding, including \$1 billion for drilling impact assistance and coastal conservation; \$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (divided equally between the state and federal sides); and \$350 million to state fish and wildlife agencies.

The Senate bill faces critical opposition from the leadership of the Appropriations and Budget committees because its automatic allocation of funds would decrease the committees' pot of discretionary money. This committee opposition is particularly unwelcome because the legislative year will be abbreviated by the fall elections. An alternate scenario could be to package the bill into an omnibus budget deal this fall.

A permanent, fully funded, LWCF is vital to the protection of our vanishing natural lands. There is a huge backlog, just in lands already authorized to be acquired, to say nothing of additional lands needing protection.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Without delay, contact your Congressman (address on p.2) to urge the strongest support for HR.701 when it comes up for vote on the House floor. Cite examples of why such funds are needed for acquiring already authorized lands (e.g., the Obed WSR, the Big South Fork NRR, the Cherokee NF) that are in

danger of being environmentally degraded, as well as becoming much more expensive to purchase as time passes.

P.S. For Tennessee, two federal land purchases were funded with the FY2000 LWCF (which totaled \$450 million): (a) additions to the Stones River National Battlefield, \$1.5 million, and (b) the Gulf Tract for the Cherokee NF, \$3.5 million. (N230 12A).

D. Two bad Utah bills

Those of us who are in love with Utah's wild lands should oppose two disastrous "wilderness" bills: Jan Hansen's HR 3035 and Chris Cannon's HR 3606. Both bills are distractions from the key issues in conserving these wild regions. For more information, contact The Utah Wilderness Coalition, 801-486-2872.

8. YEAR 2000 ELECTIONS

Electing pro-environment candidates and/or defeating foes of the environment is one of the most important actions you can take this year – and its effect will last for years to come. We'll try to bring you information about the environmental credentials of candidates. Share it with others, and if you feel strongly, lend your time and expertise to election campaigns.

In 1997-98, PACs that lobby against environmental interests spent \$79 million, while environmental donors contributed less than \$5 million. (Sources: Environmental Working Group and Center for Responsive Politics.)

A. Presidential candidates

Remember that the person elected,

- appoints the cabinet,
- causes a Congressional vote by veto,
- shapes the composition of the Supreme Court.

Analyses by LCV.

The respected non-partisan League of Conservation Voters published a 59-page 2000 *Presidential Profiles* in January. Since that time 6 of the 8 Profiles have become obsolete, but summary positions of the important two remaining candidates are reproduced below, and their records are given in abbreviated form. The full profiles are extensive, with 69 and 51 references cited for Bush's and Gore's respectively. You may also wish to visit LCV's continuously updated website, www.lcv.org/presidential.

Public Lands Protection

Bush: Generally opposes federal involvement in wilderness and park protection.

Gore: Favors wilderness and park protections.

Endangered Species Act

Bush: Opposes current ESA regulations; wants property owner protection.

Gore: Supports strengthening ESA regulations.

"Takings" (paying landowners to comply with environmental laws)

Bush: Supports.

Gore: Opposes.

Air Pollution

Bush: Favors voluntary, state-controlled emissions reduction programs.

Gore: Supports strong Clean Air Act regulations.

Climate Change

Bush: Acknowledges global warming; opposes Kyoto Protocol (to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions).

Gore: Wrote book advocating climate change solutions; supports Kyoto Protocol.

Regulatory "Reform" (subjecting environmental regulations to strict economic criteria)

Bush: Supports.

Gore: Opposes.

The candidates' records

Bush: In Texas, the principal environmental agencies report to commissions whose members are named by the governor. The three members of the Texas Natural Resources and Conservation Commission (TNRCC) appointed by Bush all have strong ties to chemical, oil, or real-estate interests. The TNRCC has similar regulatory duties as the EPA and, in addition has broad jurisdiction over water rights, water quality, ground-water districts, etc. Under this Bush-appointed TNRCC, the public role in decision making has been severely reduced. Texas ranks first in toxic air emissions from industrial facilities. A vocal proponent of privatizing federal lands (Terry L. Anderson) is Bush's public lands policy advisor (see also NL231 18C).

Gore: The LCV scores for Gore's voting record as a Senator (1985-1992) average 73%. While in the Congress, he had a leading role in creating Superfund legislation, strengthening the 1990 Clean Air Act, passing energy-conservation measures, and warding off threats to ANWR (he has promised that, if elected President, he would support protective legislation for ANWR). However, he failed to support Senate ratification of the 1992 Treaty on Biodiversity.

As Vice President, Gore has had a crucial role in shaping the Administration's environmental policies and appointments, and in a process whereby environmentalists are consulted early about legislation and regulations. He is widely credited with designation of the Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument in Utah. He took a politically risky path in salvaging the US role in the Kyoto climate-change negotiations. (He actually began showing an interest in climate-change issues years before environmental groups became active in them.) He was a vigorous opponent of the 104th Congress's anti-environment initiatives, working for the Administration's blocking strategy (vetoes, etc.) against anti-environment riders. However, he allowed Pres. Clinton to sign a spending bill that contained the notorious "timber salvage" rider. He has publicly regretted this mistake.

Analyses by FSEEE.

The following is summarized from the March/April *Forest* magazine published by Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE), at a time when there were still four candidates.

Bush: "Of all the candidates ... Bush is the one who fills environmentalists with the most dread." Since first elected governor in 1994, he:

- Failed to support a proposal to boost funding for Texas state parks
- Opposed placing species unique to Texas on the endangered species list
- Proposed that industries voluntarily reduce harmful emissions, rather than being required to do so by law
- Advocated private property rights, including "takings" legislation (paying polluters not to pollute)
- Failed to appoint even one individual with a conservation background to any of the commissions that oversee Texas environmental agencies
- Opposed creation of a reserve for the endangered Texas sea turtle.
- Selected Terry L. Anderson, author of *How and Why to Privatize Federal Lands* (NL231 ¶8C), to advise him on public land issues. Another environmental advisor for Bush is Christopher DeMuth, whose OMB office during the Reagan Administration blocked implementation of EPA regulations.

Gore: He is "the most knowledgeable environmental advocate to reach such high office in the United States" (quoting LCV). "He would be best on forest issues. He understands ... how

forests are tied to clean water and the climate" (quoting American Lands Alliance). As Vice President, Gore is credited with:

- Designation of the 1.7 million-acre Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument
 - Being a driving force behind the Administration's efforts to restore the Everglades ecosystem
 - Supporting the Administration's right-to-know initiatives
 - Opposing the Yucca Mountain waste dump.
- FSEEE mentions some Administration negatives as well:
- failure to block the 1995 timber rider, which blocked environmental challenges to logging sales
 - a poor record on the designation of critical habitat for imperiled species.

Analyses by Republicans for Environmental Protection, (REP America's political network)

The following is summarized from REP America's publication the *GREEN elephant*, vol. 3, No. 3 (see NL231 ¶8D for the summary of an earlier *GREEN elephant* article).

REP America attempted to find out about the environmental positions of all GOP candidates in the Presidential primary, but the Bush campaign ignored repeated requests for answers, and Bush "never provided a statement or made an environmental speech." He even declined to comment when challenged by Republicans for Environmental Protection about his appointment of Terry Anderson, the proponent of privatization of federal lands. (REP America also lists another dubious Bush advisor, Gale Norton, founder of the greenscam organization CREA.)

On the basis of their analyses, Republicans for Environmental Protection endorsed McCain among the six GOP primary candidates. They praised some of his positions (particularly, recognizing the environment as an important issue) and some of his past actions (particularly for Arizona wilderness). However, they were unhappy about McCain's statements that he would revoke Clinton's National Monument designations (Grand Staircase - Escalante and subsequent ones -- see ¶8B, this NL) as well as Clinton's policy to protect remaining roadless areas in national forests. (Additionally, McCain had stated that he would open ANWR to oil & gas exploration.)

While recommending John McCain to primary voters, the article concludes as follows: "It would be senseless and inappropriate to compare Senator McCain's environmental record

and positions with those of Democratic senators or presidential candidates. Republicans for Environmental Protection has not and will not do so."

challengers for the House races when more information becomes available.

10. TCWP NEWS

B. Congressional candidates

The non-partisan League of Conservation Voters (LCV) has published a National Environmental Scorecard for every Congress since 1970. The 1999 Scorecard came out in February. Senate and House scores were based on, respectively, 9 and 16 key votes. Subjects covered included public resources, public lands, energy & global warming, pollution & public health, anti-environment riders, water & wetlands, and international.

Overall, the 106th Congress, and particularly the Senate, didn't do very well during its first session (1999).

- 37 of 100 senators failed to cast a single pro-environmental vote
- 12 Senate delegations (including Tennessee's) and 7 House delegations earned "zero" scores
- Senators, overall, voted pro-environment only 41% of the time, and representatives were only slightly better at 46%. Tennessee's averages at 0 and 30%, respectively, are even lower than the poor national averages.

The complete Scorecard, which contains numerous interesting analyses, may be viewed at www.lcv.org. Here, we reproduce the score summary for Tennessee.

Name	Party Distr	1999	1997, 1998	1995, 1996
Senate				
Frist	R	0	27	7
Thompson	R	0	13	19
House				
Jenkins	R - 1	13	3	
Duncan	R - 2	13	14	15
Wamp	R - 3	13	10	15
Hilleary	R - 4	13	10	12
Clement	D - 5	44	66	65
Gordon	D - 6	56	62	62
Bryant	R - 7	6	10	0
Tanner	D - 8	31	38	31
Ford	D - 9	81	45	

9th District Democrat Repr. Ford is challenging Frist for his Senate seat. As far as we know, all other incumbent House members are running for reelection in their Districts. We'll report on

A. TCWP now in Community Shares

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

We have been notified that TCWP has been approved to be a member of Community Shares, a funding federation of social-change organizations based in Tennessee. Community Shares membership will help TCWP raise money in an efficient, time- and cost-saving manner.

Community Shares helps raise money through payroll-deduction campaigns in workplaces all over Tennessee. Perhaps your workplace will be interested in offering employees the giving option of Community Shares. This way, folks can give to TCWP in an easier way.

TCWP Board and staff have been working to provide stable funding sources to insure the continued existence of our organization. Membership in Community Shares signifies a step to the "next level" for TCWP in meeting this goal.

To fulfill our part of being a Community Shares organization, we will be called on in the coming months to provide volunteers for various needs of the federation. Look in future Newsletters to learn about such volunteer opportunities that will help TCWP continue to do its work, protecting wildlands and waters.

B. Wildflower walk, April 1

Botanist Larry Pounds will lead a 2-hour wildflower walk on the wooded ridge behind the South Hills Apartments (formerly, Garden Apartments). Meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, at the Food City parking lot, corner of Turnpike and Illinois (near the Illinois side). Because the group is limited to 15 people, anyone interested should call Sandra Goss, at 865-522-3809.

C. TCWP presents - The Tennessee State Parks Fest, May 6

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 6. TCWP is producing a fun event to celebrate, and raise funds for, our work for State Parks. The day kicks off with breakfast (8:30-10:00 a.m.) at Clark Center Park on Melton Hill Lake, Oak Ridge. We will then split into groups for activities that include two hikes, a canoe trip, and a fun event for families with young children.

Participants are asked to collect pledges from friends, coworkers, classmates, students, teachers, family members. All proceeds will be used to benefit our work for the beleaguered State Parks.

Look for details in a brochure that will be mailed to all members at the end of the month. Meantime, help our parks by starting to collect pledges now! We recommend minimum pledges of \$5.00. Checks should be made payable to TCWP—State Parks Fest.

Volunteers are needed for the day of the event. To get in on the behind-the-scenes fun, call or e-mail Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com.

*** D. We need volunteers for:**

- The North Ridge Trail – seven individuals, couples, or small groups who will periodically walk a section of the trail and report any problems back to Tom Thomas (see ¶7A, this NL)
- The TP2K—a one-time job involving manning the TCWP display, set-up, clean-up, etc. (see ¶2B)
- The State Parks Fest – another one-time job (¶10C)
- The TCWP slide show – provide contacts with any group (club, church, school, etc.) interested in having a program presented; we'll supply the speaker and the show.
- Take action on at least 3 of the items suggested in the Action Summary (p.2)

E. Special mentions

Recently, so many people have done noteworthy things for TCWP that a list of special mentions is bound to be abbreviated. This one excludes any of the very extensive work done on the issues covered in this NL.

- Francis Perey has developed a terrific website for TCWP and deserves our deepest gratitude. In addition to current and recent Newsletters, it has articles, photos, etc. It will also contain a few selected timely action calls on major issues, such as the Big South Fork GMP (¶2A, this NL). Be sure to visit it at www.kormet.org/tcwp/.
- Tom Thomas initiated a mapping project for the North Ridge Trail and lent TCWP the considerable sum required for it (also see ¶7A, this NL for his other efforts on the Trail).
- Olive Gaines has designed a TCWP logo. You'll see it on our Newsletters (starting with this one), T-shirts, etc.
- Chuck Estes, Jimmy Groton, and Ralph Harvey are providing extensive liaison with TP2K. Lee Russell wrote two articles for the TP2K tabloid,

one of which (about TCWP) you can see on our website

- Hal Smith arranged for a TCWP exhibit (developed by Marcy Reed) to be displayed at the January Wilderness Week in Pigeon Forge.
- Bruce Helton, Nathan Helton, Mary Lynn Dubson, Chuck Estes, Frank Hensley, Ralph Harvey, Jimmy Groton, Karen Catlett, Alex Catlett, Natalie Catlett, and Marcy Reed helped with assembly of TVA seedlings for shoreline stabilization (¶5E, this NL).

11. CALENDAR; JDB 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, marcyrreed@aol.com)

- March 25 and April 1, Guided wildflower hikes in the Norris vicinity, sponsored by Norris Dam State Park, TVA, Ijams, and Friends of Norris Dam State Park (Call Michael Scott, 426-7461).
- Apr 1, TCWP Wildflower walk, Oak Ridge (¶10B, this NL)
- April 7-9, IP2K Festival to celebrate the Obed, at Wartburg (¶2B, this NL).
- April 7-9, "Using the Clean Water Act to protect your watershed: a concentrated course" Nashville, Scarritt-Bennett Center. (Contact Tennessee Clean Water Network, catherine@tcwn.org, or visit the website www.tcwn.org; registration fee goes up after March 24).
- April 8, Cumberland Trail Auction, (to acquire and protect the Cumberland Trail Greenway), Garden Plaza Hotel, Oak Ridge, Cocktails, dinner, silent and live auction, 5:30-9:30 (Call CTC at 931-456-6259).
- April 11, AFORR meeting about ED-3 (¶7B)
- April 23, Comment deadline for Smokies road proposal (¶4A).
- May 3, Comment deadline for Fall Creek Falls LUMP (¶1)
- May 1-6, Atlanta, Environmental Leadership Training Course (see Miscellaneous Resources, below).
- May 6, TCWP State Parks Fest, Oak Ridge (¶10C, this NL)
- May 15, Comment deadline for Big South Fork General Management Plan (¶2A, this NL).
- June 24-25, J.W. Bradley's SOCM Round-up/Frozen Head (Call Linda at 865-426-9455).

- Sept. 12-15, Watchable Wildlife Conference, Casper, Wyoming (Call 307-766-5637).
- Sept. 23, National Public Lands Day (details later).
- Oct. 28, TCWP Annual Meeting, Norris Dam State Park.

Job opening

The Pinelands Commission, State of New Jersey, is looking for an Executive Director to implement policy and to manage its 60-person staff. For information, contact Pinelands Search, PO Box 63, Wallingford, PA 19086, Fax 610-874-4884; email pinelandssearch@aol.com.

Publications

- *100 Hikes in™ the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 2nd edition*, by Russ Manning, has been published by The Mountaineer Books (206-223-6303). This is an expanded (30 new hikes) and completely updated version of the previously titled *The Best of the Great Smoky Mountains*. Includes day hikes and backpacks (288 pp., 80 photos, 26 maps, \$14.95 trade paperback).
- The University of Tennessee Press has, over the years, published a number of books of potential interest to TCWP members. Most of them were described in earlier Newsletters.
Wilderness Trails of the Cherokee National Forest, Ed. by William H. Skelton;
The Historic Cumberland Plateau, by Russ Manning;
Tennessee Hiking Guide, Ed. By Robert S. Brandt;
Hiking the Big South Fork, by B.G. Deaver, J.A. Smith, and Howard Ray Duncan.

Miscellaneous Resources

- A 5-day Environmental Leadership Training Course, May 16 at Atlanta, will teach the skills for being active and effective in environmental areas. Free to participants. (Contact Erin Kelly at tenneaf@wildspring.com)
- *The Secret Forest Experience* is a Forest Studies Curriculum for grades 6-8 that is available FREE from Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics. Teachers and science educators can download it from www.afsee.org; or send their name, address (including e-mail) and school name to FSEEE, PO Box 11615, Eugene, OR 97440. 541-484-2692.
- Cherokee Voices, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Mountain Treasures of the National Forest, has set up an Arthur Smith Memorial Fund (NL231 ¶9H). Send contributions

for the Fund to Dean Whitworth, Treasurer, Cherokee Voices, 698 Carrie Bunton Lane, Butler, TN 37640.

- *The Nature and History Adventures on the Oak Ridge Reservation Program* is cosponsored by ORNL and the American Museum of Science and Energy. Call Lissa Clarke of AMSE for the program and to preregister for events.
- The Coalition for Jobs and the Environment is calling for nominations for its Arthur Smith Award, which honors a person or group for making a long-term contribution to the quality of the environment, or environmentally sound economic development. Nominations are due April 28 (For details, call Eileen McIlvane, 540-628-8996).
- Several of our Congressmen have given up their e-mail address. Try www.house.gov/wilderep. Rep. Jolin J. Duncan, Jr. may be reached by a link from his homepage, www.house.gov/duncan. Link smay be available from other Congressmen's homepages.

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.

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

President: Jimmy Groton, 865-483-5799 (evening).

Exec. Director: Marcy Reed, 865-691-8807 or 481-0286;

MarcyRReed@aol.com

Membership-Development Directors:

Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809; SKGoss@esper.com and

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On the web: <http://www.kornet.org/tcwp/>