



1. Obed (A. Dam proposed for watershed B. Climbing Plan) p. 3
2. State lands and waters ..... p. 4
  - A. Caney Fork damproposed
  - B. Land additions forparks
  - C. Protection for Dry Fork Creek
  - D. Watershed meetings
  - E. Smith Bend acquisition
  - F. Chip-mill moratorium request
  - G. Environmental Justice plan
3. Smokies: lots of problems..... p. 6
  - A. North Shore Road revived
  - B. Hwy 321 five-laning
  - C. Cherokees want land exchange
  - D. AQ lawsuit filed
  - E. Elks
4. Big news about national forests..... p. 8
  - A. Final Roadless Plan better than Draft
  - B. Foes readying attacks, exploiting fires
  - C. Delay in Forest Plans
  - D. Two timbersales stopped
5. TVA news ..... p.10
  - A. Natural Areas position
  - B. Duck regionwater supply
  - C. Sign up for Green Power!
  - D. Sturgeons returning
  - E. Capsules
6. Oak Ridge area ..... p. 11
  - A. Boeig Tract shoreline
  - B. Land-use planning for ORR
  - C. 3-Bend Conservation Area
7. National issues..... p. 12
  - A. CARA didn't make it, but LCPII did
  - B. LCPII and Interior Appropriation
  - C. The worst riders did not stick
  - D. Outlook for ANWR
  - E. Election outcomes in Congress
  - F. Coal slurry disaster
8. TCWP news (Upcoming events; reports on Annual Meeting and other recent events; posters and tee shirts; special mentions; display board) ..... p. 14
9. Job opening; calendar; resources ..... p. 15
10. ACTION SUMMARY ..... p. 2

**The BIG stories**

**Dam proposed for the Obed watershed .. ¶1A**

**Crossville looking to dam Caney Fork .... ¶2A**

**North Shore Road proposal for Smokies is revived ..... ¶3A**

**FEIS has very good Roadless Plan for National Forests .. ¶4A**

**CARA is replaced by LCPII - lots of \$\$ .. ¶7B**

## 10. ACTION SUMMARY

¶ No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Dam proposed for Obed watershed	TDEC; Corps; EPA	Send comments and/or attend January 11 hearing
1B	Obed Climbing Plan	National Park Service	Send comments and/or attend Dec. 7 scoping meeting
2A	Dam proposed for Caney Fork	Crossville mayor; legislators	Oppose dam; urge funding for water-options study
2D	French Broad and Nolichucky	Div. Water Poll. Control	Attend watershed meetings
3B	5-laning Hwy 321, N. of Smokies	National Park Service Gov. Sundquist; TDOT	"A full EIS is needed!" "5-laning Hwy 321 is harmful for Smokies!"
3C	Land exchange with Cherokees	Supt.; Babbitt; legislators	"Do not permit the proposed land exchange!"
4A	Final EIS of Forest Roadless Plan	Chief Dombeck; legislators	"Rule should be finalized and deserves great support!"
5C	TVA Green Power	Your electric utility; SACE	Sign up for Green Power Switch block(s)
5E	Regional Stewardship Council	TVA	Attend RRS C meeting, contact individual members
6A	Boeing Tract shoreline	DOE at Oak Ridge	"182 acre shoreline should be conveyed to TVA!"
7D	Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	Pres. Clinton	"Designate Coastal Plain as national monument!"
8	TCWP tasks	TCWP	Attend events; volunteer; recruit members

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  
FAX: 202-225-3494  
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  
URLs: <http://www.house.gov/astname/> and <http://astname.senate.gov/> General contact info: <http://www.tcv.org>

## WHAT IS TCWP?

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

Membership-Development Directors:

Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809; [SKGoss@espcr.com](mailto:SKGoss@espcr.com) and Marcy Reed, 865-691-8807; [MarcyRReed@aol.com](mailto:MarcyRReed@aol.com)

Newsletter editor: Lee Russell, 865-482-2153.

e-mail: [TCWP@kornet.org](mailto:TCWP@kornet.org)

Internet: <http://www.kornet.org/tcwp/>

## 1. OBED NEWS

### A. Yet another dam proposal

A dam has been proposed for a stream within the watershed of the Obed, and only just outside the National Wild and Scenic River boundary. You can help stop it by coming to a hearing on January 11, and/or writing letters in the interim (see details below).

The importance of this issue transcends the project itself; interpretation of the Obed's hard-fought-for ONRW (Outstanding National Resource Water, or Tier-3) designation is at stake here, as are a number of other basic issues. Your involvement is going to be very important.

Fairfield Glade, a residential development in Cumberland County, has proposed to construct an impoundment on Cove Branch, a western tributary to Daddy's Creek at mile 4.7, just a couple of miles upstream from the Obed National Wild & Scenic River boundary (which is at Devil's Breakfast Table). Where Daddy's Creek receives Cove Branch, it flows through a deep, rugged, gorge in the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. Cove Branch itself has also carved a sizeable gorge (see Hebbertsburg Quadrangle) and is a lovely, unspoiled stream. The developer proposes to construct an 80- to 90-ft high dam to impound at least 8,400 linear feet of the stream (the public notice erroneously announced only 4,700 feet) to make an 81-acre lake for the purpose of getting a higher price for the private homes to be constructed on this 2,500-acre tract (note: this is not a water-supply lake).

Fairfield Glade's application to the Corps of Engineers for a Sec. 404 permit (under the Clean Water Act) went by unnoticed by all of us: the Corps notice was a one-sentence e-mail message, giving only the name of the stream without stating that it was in the Obed watershed. The National Park Service's Obed manager was not directly notified.

Currently, the matter is in the State's court because, under the Clean Water Act, a Corps of Engineers 404 permit requires a "401" water-quality certification by the Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control. On October 9, TCWP urged the Division to refuse to issue this certification; and the following week, both the Tennessee Clean Water Network and TCWP wrote to request a public hearing. Such a hearing has now been scheduled for January 11 at Fairfield Glade

(see Action Box, below), and we urge your attendance. In the meantime, it is very important for everyone to send in comments (see box, below, for addresses).

The following are important points to make.

- Because of potential impacts to a National Wild & Scenic River, as well as the certainty of public controversy, evaluation of this project requires a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and not just an Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Both, the Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Department of Conservation (TDEC) are under obligation to consider the ONRW designation of the Obed.
- TDEC cannot assure that water-quality standards will not be violated (a prerequisite for 401 certification). There are numerous reasons to fear adverse impacts of this project, not only during the construction phase but thereafter. For example, the general area contains toxic coal seams; a similar impoundment by the same applicant had significant water-quality impacts; and a concentration of residential development in the drainage has a clear potential for continuing pollution.
- There are also clear water-quantity and hydrological implications, especially when the project is considered in its cumulative context, along with the hundreds of other impoundments in the Obed watershed.
- This project has a potential impact on several plant and animal species of concern, including a number that are on the state or federal list of endangered species.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Your comments need not be long, and, hopefully, the above list will help you formulate them. Send them to the following addresses:  
 (a) Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control, Attn: R. Baker, 7th Floor L&C Annex, 401 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37243-1534. E-mail: [environment@mail.state.tn.us](mailto:environment@mail.state.tn.us)  
 (b) Carl Olsen, US Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070. E-mail: [Carl.R.Olsen@tn02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Carl.R.Olsen@tn02.usace.army.mil)  
 (c) Eric Somerville, US EPA, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303-8960. E-mail: [Somerville.Eric@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Somerville.Eric@epamail.epa.gov)
- (2) Attend the hearing on January 11, 7:00 p.m. CST at the Fairfield Glade Recreation Center (for driving direction, call 931-484-3722). If you want to carpool, call 865-482-2153 or 865-691-8807. We need a large attendance, because this will be a political decision.

## B. Climbing Plan in the making

On Nov. 1, the National Park Service (NPS) began its formal scoping period for the Climbing Management Plan for the Obed Wild & Scenic River. It will accept verbal and written input until December 31, and there will be one public scoping meeting on Dec. 7 (see box, below). NPS is seeking input into developing a proposed action and alternatives. Issues that will be addressed include the management of current and future climbing routes, fixed anchors, access, parking, and environmental impacts.

In the ecologically fragile wilderness areas of the Obed and tributary gorges, the paramount concern must be to protect the ecosystems, the geological features, and the visitor experience of remoteness and wilderness quality. Any further expansion of the already extensive climbing activities, and of an infrastructure that has been established, without planning and without review, on lands intended to be wild, threatens these values. The Climbing Plan must be established within the provisions of the Obed General Management Plan. The segments of the W&S River where climbing is permitted must be circumscribed; and, within these segments, the number of routes needs to be limited, and very protective criteria established. Responsible climbers are helping by spreading these messages.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Attend the public scoping meeting on Dec. 7, from 7-9 p.m. at the Obed WSR office in Wartburg (call Lee Russell, 865-482-2153 if you'd like to carpool). Any questions about the meeting or the process may be directed to Chris Stubbs, Community Planner, at 423-569-2404 ext.231
- (2) Send written comments to Kristin A. Stoehr, Unit Manager, Obed Wild & Scenic River, P.O. Box 429, Wartburg, TN 37887.

## 2. STATE LANDS AND WATERS

### A. Crossville proposes dam on Caney Fork

In mid-September, the Crossville City Council approved a resolution to seek a permit for building a dam on the Caney Fork River just west of Bruce Knob and ~1 mile east of the White County line. The Caney Fork, as most of you are undoubtedly aware, has carved Scott's Gulf, the

heart of the recently established Bridge-stone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness - 10,000 acres of public lands (NL235 13C).

The 1,300-acre reservoir Crossville is seeking to impound on the Caney Fork is claimed to yield 20 MGD (million gallons per day) of water (but see below). Council voted a budget of \$350,000 to pay for engineering design work, attorney fees, and other costs connected with the permitting process. Arguments for the resolution were based on the claim by the city's engineering firm, Lamar Dunn & Ass., that the demand for peak water use will exceed capacity by the year 2006. This contrasts with the 1998 Corps of Engineers' Regional Water Supply Study (NL226 11A), which estimated that, with a "median" growth scenario, even by the year 2050 only 3.1 MGD would be required. The engineering firm estimates the cost of the Caney Fork impoundment at \$20 million.

The Lamar Dunn claims for the Caney Fork impoundment differ markedly from those in the Corps' Water Supply Study; the latter estimated the cost at \$63.5 million (instead the engineering firm's projection of \$20 million), and the yield at 12 MGD (instead of 20 MGD). Most important, the Corps study pointed out the extreme unlikelihood that any dam proposal would be approved, and it provided quite a number of alternative water-supply solutions. Among these were several possible pipelines, the most economical and feasible one coming from Watts Bar Reservoir; this could provide a safe yield of 9 MGD at a cost of about \$28 million. Unfortunately, Watts Bar Reservoir has received a lot of bad press in Cumberland County, where people are worried about all the "bad stuff" that may be coming out of Oak Ridge.

The statement by Crossville Mayor J.H. Graham III that it was time for the city "to serve as the regional purveyor of potable water" illustrates the political power struggle that is going on within the county, where the other 5 utility districts object to having to buy water on the city's terms. After many years of uncoordinated and independent activities of the various utilities, a county-wide Water Authority was established last year by Act of the General Assembly; but Crossville is not participating in this Authority.

Chuck Estes, chairman of TCWP's Water Issues Committee, is seeking a meeting with the Crossville City Council in mid-December to discuss water-supply alternatives and to inform

them about the environmental community's strong opposition to the Caney Fork dam proposal.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Send your comments about the Caney Fork Dam proposal to J.H. Graham III, Mayor, City of Crossville, 99 Municipal Ave., Crossville, TN 38555-0447.
- (2) Contact Senators Frist and Thompson and Rep. Van Hilleary (addresses on p.2), urging them to support funding for a needs and options analysis by the Cumberland County Water Authority

#### B. Good news on lands added to state-parks

##### • Lands contiguous with Pickett.

Frank Hensley reports that the Tennessee Forestry Division has purchased the spectacular 1,180-acre Cunningham tract, adjacent to Pickett. The Division's Bob Rochelle is to be commended for moving this acquisition through the system. Frank continues to be heavily involved in efforts to bring other tracts of lands around Pickett into protective ownership. As reported earlier (NL235 ¶3E), TCWP has offered to take on some stewardship function for the 1,125-acre Burton Talley tract, which was donated to the Tennessee Nature Conservancy last year.

##### • Lands contiguous with Frozen Head.

Joni Lovegrove reports that the State Building Commission has approved \$3.7 million for the purchase of the large Bird Mountain tract contiguous with Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area. This is the land visible from the front of the visitor center. Another step of approval is still needed (State Finance Administration), but the Building Commission was the most difficult hurdle. Joni is hoping that phase-2 (NL230 ¶3B; 233 ¶4C) will be purchase of the Love Mountain tract (behind the visitor center).

#### C. Fall Creek Falls watershed: alternatives to be found to discharge into Dry Fork Creek

The outflow from a sewage plant proposed by the town of Spencer would enter Dry Fork Creek, in the watershed of Fall Creek Falls State Park, and the large Spencer Mountain cave system (NL234 ¶4B). In May, however, despite Dry Creek's Tier-2 ("High-Quality Water") status, the Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) ordered the State to issue a permit for the sewer plant. A number of groups then requested EPA to review this WQCB directive, and EPA withheld

federal funding for the project until an environmental analysis had been performed (NL235 ¶3B).

At the Sept. 26 meeting of the WQCB, it was announced that, after extensive research, EPA's Region-4 Administrator John Hankinson had concluded that an alternative to the planned discharge to Dry Fork Creek had to be found. TDEC Commissioner Hamilton informed the WQCB that efforts were under way to negotiate a settlement, and a 30-day postponement was agreed upon in order to develop alternatives that might permit Spencer to have a sewer system that would not result in a discharge into Dry Fork Creek. In the meantime, a federal NEPA suit, filed by a coalition of environmental groups, is still pending.

#### D. Watershed meetings to attend

To perform its water-quality assessments, the Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control (615-532-0348) has, since 1996, used a watershed approach that employs a 5-year management cycle. Different watersheds enter the cycle in different years, and each cycle begins with planning and data collection. There are two upcoming watershed meetings for East Tennessee.

- Lower French Broad, Dec. 7, Sevierville, Rm 306W, Sevier County Courthouse
- Nolichucky, Dec. 5, Limestone, Ruritan Bldg, Limestone Ruritan Rd.

Both meetings begin at 7 p.m. EST. We urge all interested persons to attend and contribute their knowledge and concerns about these watersheds.

#### E. Sandhill cranes and the Smith Bend campaign

The upper end of Chickamauga Reservoir is a prime wintering ground for numerous migratory bird species. For some time now, the Foothills Land Conservancy has been engaged in a campaign to assist in the purchase of Smith Bend, a 2,500-acre tract in a big bend of the Tennessee River just a little ways down from Watts Bar Dam. This area is used by a growing flock of sandhill cranes, and by more than 20 species of ducks, 25 species of shorebirds, and several threatened species of songbirds.

The tract is being sold by the Mead Corp. for \$6.9 million. TWRA (The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) will spend ~\$5 million toward its purchase – the equivalent of 2 years' worth of State Wetlands Acquisition Fund money – and the Foothills Land Conservancy has undertaken to raise \$1.9 million in private funds. This payment

is due by March 31, 2001. TWRA will manage the wetland portions of Smith Bend as a wildlife refuge, and the upland portions as a wildlife management area.

The eastern flock of the sandhill crane has already started arriving in the general area. A very good place to view them is in the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, near Birchwood.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** The Foothills Land Conservancy is offering a school curriculum packet, poster, and video about Smith Bend free of charge to area schools and educators. To obtain such materials, or to contribute to the Smith Bend campaign, write to 614 Sevierville Rd, Maryville, TN 37804. Or visit the Conservancy web site at <http://www.foothillsland.org>

#### **F. Churches request chip-mill moratorium**

The Commission on Religion in Appalachia (CORA) has sent a resolution to Governor Sundquist requesting him to "declare a moratorium on any new or expanding chip mill or chip-using facility in the State of Tennessee." CORA is the nation's largest coalition of denominations (18), including every southern State Council of Churches.

The proposed moratorium is modeled on one written by Missouri's Gov. Mel Carnahan, who recently died in a tragic airplane crash (his widow will serve in the Senate). It is of modest scope in that it does not address the 156 existing chip-mill operations in the south, which are currently associated with the clearcutting of about 1.2 million acres a year.

#### **G. Environmental Justice plan**

Environmental Justice means making sure that minority and economically disadvantaged communities are not made to bear the brunt of environmental pollution and degradation (as has often been the case). Tennessee is the only state in the Southeast, and among the first in the nation, to develop an environmental justice plan (it was one of only 4 states to receive a competitive grant from EPA for this purpose). The plan has now been drafted by the Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC), which is in process of soliciting input on it (meetings were held Nov. 13 and 14).

The plan was developed by a citizen panel from communities all over the state, in cooperation with TDEC and EPA. Copies can be obtained

by calling 1-888-891-TDEC, or by visiting [www.state.tn.us/environment/epo/cj/plan](http://www.state.tn.us/environment/epo/cj/plan)

### **3. SMOKIES: LOTS OF PROBLEMS**

#### **A. The North Shore Road springs back to life**

In the waning days of the Congress, Rep. Charles Taylor (R-NC) and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) managed to attach a rider to the big Highway Appropriations bill to add \$16 million for construction of the infamous North Shore Road along Fontana Reservoir in Swain County. This 21-mile-long road from Bryson City to Fontana Dam would destroy the largest *de facto* wilderness within the Park, if not within the Eastern USA.

It has been the lingering dream of the North Shore Road that has caused Sen. Helms to frustrate numerous attempts over decades to designate wilderness within the Park. Helms and Taylor have continuously harped on the so-called 1943 Agreement involving TVA, NPS, and Swain County, under which a road would be constructed to replace one flooded by Fontana Reservoir. However, back in the 1980s, agreement was reached whereby Swain County would be paid \$16 million in lieu of the road, and this provision was included in all the wilderness bills proposed over the years (and each time stymied by Sen. Helms). Taylor's big argument now (as in the past) is that the road is needed to give local families access to cemeteries. The truth is that NPS has all along provided such access on demand, and that very little has been requested.

As with all riders, the measure was not debated in Congress, and there was no opportunity for public input. The way the National Park Service found out about it was through an article in a North Carolina newspaper. This is an appropriation without an authorization; the project has not been approved. It is estimated that the \$16 million that Taylor managed to get appropriated would just cover studies required by NEPA and needed for an EIS. As for the cost of the road itself, this was estimated to be \$136 million back in 1996, and may be higher now.

#### **B. Another controversial road, just outside the Park**

The Tenn. Dept. of Transportation (TDOT) is planning to widen Hwy 321 (SR 73) into a 5-lane highway along the northern boundary of the

Park, between Gatlinburg and Cosby. Construction of the first 2.5 miles, slated to start in January, will cost \$36 million. About 70% of this stretch will actually touch the Park's boundary and will involve construction of 27 concrete retaining walls to hold back the mountains, rerouting of streams, and impacts on wetlands. To date, the National Park Service has only agreed (and this, under pressure) to do an Environmental Assessment (EA). It seems clear that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is mandated because federal lands would be impacted in a highly adverse manner.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Demand that NPS do a full EIS on the effects of the Hwy 321 widening. Addresses: Superintendent, Gt Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Rd., Gatlinburg, TN 37738. Send a copy to Jerry Belson, Regional Director, NESSE Regional Office, Atlanta Federal Center, 1924 Bldg., 100 Alabama St., SW, Atlanta, GA 30303.
- (2) Oppose the 5-laning of Hwy 321 north of the Park. Write to Gov. Sundquist and send a copy to TDOT. Addresses follow:  
Gov. Don Sundquist, State Capitol, Nashville, TN 37204.  
Commissioner Bruce Saltzman, TDOT, 505 Deaderic St., Suite 900, James Polk Bldg., Nashville, TN 37243.

### C. Oppose land exchange with Cherokee Indians

The Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (EBCI) has asked the National Park Service (NPS) to give them 200 acres of bottom land, known as the Ravensford or Floyd Bottoms tract, in exchange for land "of equal value" in North Carolina, adjacent to any one of eight NPS units (including the Smokies). The EBCI plans developments for some or all of the Ravensford tract. The Smoky Mtns Hiking Club has developed numerous strong arguments in opposition to the land exchange, including the following:

- According to NPS guidelines, land exchanges should be considered only where there is a demonstrable benefit to the park unit involved.
- Our parks are smaller than any other; we should not further reduce their area.
- A large one would be set by giving up land for the convenience of adjacent land owners.
- Flat bottom lands in the park are a rare commodity, and they provide information on the past

uses of these lands. The tract in question is on the National Register of Historical Places.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** For more details, call Ray Payne, 865-693-6944. To express your opinion concerning the proposed land exchange, contact

- (a) Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains NP, 107 Park Headquarters Rd., Gatlinburg, TN 37738.
- (b) Senators Frist and Thompson, and Reps. Duncan and Jenkins (addresses on p. 2).
- (c) Sec. Bruce Babbitt, US Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240; or e-mail [bruce\\_babbitt@ios.doi.gov](mailto:bruce_babbitt@ios.doi.gov)

Send a letter to the paper.

### D. NPS sues TVA for Smokies pollution

The National Parks and Conservation Association has filed a suit in US District Court charging TVA with violating the Clean Air Act at its Kingston and John Sevier Steam Plants. The suit alleges that these plants have violated opacity limits, based on the amount of light that can penetrate smokestack emissions – yet another measure of the air pollution that has been seriously degrading plant survival and visitor experience in the Park.

### E. Elk re-introduction

The comment period for the Environmental Assessment of elk re-introduction into the Great Smoky Mtns National Park has ended, and it seems that only a handful of the comments opposed the proposal. Elk may start arriving in January or February, all of them from Land Between the Lakes. The plan is to release 25 elk per year for the next three years, then do a study for two years before deciding on whether and how to proceed.

In the meantime, the state of Tennessee is embarking on a larger-scale project. Starting January or February, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) will be releasing about 100 elk per year for the next four years, with the goal of having a herd of 1,400-2,000 within 10 years. The first release will be in the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area, and the ultimate restoration zone is planned to include parts of five counties, with the greatest concentrations in Campbell and Scott Counties. Unlike the elk in the Smokies, TWRA's elk will be "hunting," as well as viewable.

#### 4. NATIONAL FORESTS: BIG NEWS

##### A. *One of the largest land-preservation efforts in U.S. history: The final Roadless Areas plan is even better than the Draft!*

On Nov. 9, USFS Chief Mike Dombeck released the Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). He expects "to render a final decision on this matter in no sooner than 30 days." The original proposal (in the Draft EIS issued in May) was a courageous and visionary step for the Administration to take (NL220 ¶1; NL230 ¶2D; NL233 ¶1), but there was a groundswell of sentiment for further improvements. The USFS received over 1.1 million comments (on top of 517,000 earlier submitted on the scope of the initiative), overwhelmingly urging strong protections.

The agency has responded by significantly strengthening the plan. Here, in a nutshell, are the major improvements: (a) for inventoried roadless areas, not only will there be a prohibition on constructing roads, but also on most timber harvesting, and (b) the 8.5 million-acre Tongass National Forest will not be exempt from the rules applied to the rest of the national forest system (NFS), though these rules will not go into effect until 2004 for the Tongass.

Inventoried roadless areas comprise 58.5 million acres, or 31% of NFS lands (though this represents only 2% of the total land base of the USA). The May Draft EIS considered three sets of alternatives pertaining, respectively, to prohibitions to be instituted, adoption procedures to be followed, and the Tongass National Forest. Among four "Prohibition Alternatives," the agency preferred #2, namely, prohibition of road construction within inventoried roadless areas. Now, for the Final EIS, they have chosen #3, "Prohibit road construction, reconstruction and timber harvest except for stewardship purposes" (italics ours). Certain exceptions apply to the road-construction prohibition. They include situations where a road is needed to protect health and safety in catastrophic events, where reconstruction is needed to implement road safety, etc.

There were also four "Tongass Alternatives" in the Draft EIS, among which the agency preferred #3, namely, "No prohibitions; determine whether road construction should be prohibited as part of [the] 5-Year Plan review." Now, for

the Final EIS, a new alternative has been developed and is designated as the preferred one, namely, "Tongass not exempt; Alternative selected for the rest of NFS lands would apply." However, as an economic mitigation measure (to ease the transition for communities most affected), the final rule may delay implementation of any prohibition alternatives on the Tongass NF until the April 2004.

The procedural alternatives described in the DEIS were dropped from the FEIS, partly because the comments showed that there was confusion about how these alternatives would be implemented. Instead, the decision was made to include procedures for roadless area conservation in the final rule for Land & Resource Management Planning Regulations.

Two recommendations made by many of those who commented (including TCWP) were not followed. One was to apply the prohibitions not only to inventoried roadless areas, but to all unroaded areas 1,000 acres or greater in size. The FEIS considers it inappropriate to apply a national prohibition to such areas, the delineation of which it believes to be the subject of local considerations. A second frequent recommendation was to confine OHV use to specifically designated roads and trails. The FEIS states that there is no evidence that OHV activity poses "disproportionate risks of altering natural landscapes to the same extent as roads and timber harvesting." It points to the authority of local managers to regulate OHV use.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** You may be sure that the timber industry and its allies in the Congress will do their best to derail this plan before the rule is finalized, so we must be heard from.

- (1) Commend USFS Chief Mike Dombeck on the FEIS and, urge him to finalize the rule without delay (P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090). (If you have questions, call 703-605-5299).
- (2) Contact your senators and congressman (addresses on p.2) to tell them of your support for the USFS Roadless Plan. If appropriate, cite facts from ¶4B, below.

##### B. *Foes will attack Roadless Rule, exploiting recent fires*

This summer's serious fires in the West are being exploited by the logging industry and their Congressional allies as an argument for cutting down forests (in fact, the 6.4 million acres that



burned this year were less than one-half of the century's annual average). Legislation is being planned that might be characterized as the "Son of Salvagerider" (the infamous 1995 amendment that allowed all environmental laws to be overridden for the purpose of "salvage" logging to "save" forests from damages).

A number of myths being spread by pro-logging interests can be countered by facts summarized by FSEEE (Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics).

**MYTH:** The fires wouldn't have happened if so much National Forest land had not been placed off-limits to logging and road building.

**FACT:** Only 31% of the areas that burned were on national forests, and of those national forest lands, only a fraction were wilderness or roadless areas. Most of the acreage that burned was, in fact, managed timberland that had already been logged, and not pristine old growth.

**MYTH:** The fires burned so hot because the forests had not been thinned.

**FACT:** The largest acreage that burned, and the hottest fires, involved areas that had been intensively logged in the past.

**MYTH:** Increased industrial logging could prevent fires of the type we had in the summer.

**FACT:** Industrial logging removes the largest, most fire-resistant, trees and leaves a tinderbox of highly flammable slash and brush.

These facts are supported by two careful studies, one by the Congressional Research Service (a bipartisan group that analyzes federal policies for Congress), the other by the Pacific Biodiversity Institute. The CRS analyzed logging levels and fire activity for the past 20 years.

Candidate George W. Bush has attacked the Roadless Initiative as a "land grab," and it is thought that his Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior would attempt to dismember it. Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), who has threatened litigation to block the policy, attacked the Clinton Administration for not including fire-danger data in the FEIS (¶7C, this NL). By contrast, Secretaries Babbitt (USDI) and Glickman (USDA) issued a new federal fire policy on Sept. 8 that states explicitly that roadless areas are less likely to host fires than are roaded ones. The Forest Service has identified 89 million acres of national forestlands that have a moderate to high risk of catastrophic fire; less than 16% of these are in inventoried roadless areas.

### C. Delay in Forest Plan revisions for Southern Region

The Forest Service (USFS) has been engaged ineffectively to revise the Forest Plans for individual national forests in the Southern Appalachians. This process has been delayed due to unanswered questions regarding national policies, especially the Roadless Area Conservation Initiative (see ¶4A).

Following comments on Forest Plans received in public meetings held last fall, changes were made in the initial proposals. Recently, Regional Forester Elizabeth Estill announced that the preliminary effects analyses and species viability assessments will not be ready until next spring, at which time results will be presented for more public input into the planning process. The Draft EIS and Proposed Revised Forest Plans will then be written and will be released for public review in the fall. Plan completion is now expected late in 2001.

Though the Plan revisions are delayed, the Southern Appalachian Region is busily engaged in developing management direction to meet specific needs of individual watersheds and of riparian ecosystems, and is identifying wildlife habitat needs. The national forests of the Southern Appalachians provide habitat for 170 species listed as threatened or endangered. An additional 660 species are classified as sensitive because of their rarity. The total number of species in our regional forests is astounding, including:

- 80 amphibians and reptiles,
- 175 terrestrial birds,
- 65 mammals,
- 2,200 vascular plants,
- 25,000 invertebrates.

Ms. Estill reports that this year, in addition to making species inventories, the Region completed wildlife and fish habitat improvement projects on about 200,000 acres.

### D. Citizens stop two timber sales

- Sale in Cherokee NE that would add pollution. Last year, the USFS approved a 131-acre timber sale on Rich Mountain in Unicoi County that would involve several large clearcuts, and construction or repair of 1.5 miles of road on steep terrain. Erosion from this project would add sediment to the Nolichucky River and Broad Shoals Creek (= California Creek), both of which are on the state's 303(d) list. This means they are already too polluted to meet water-quality stan-

dards, and the federal government may not cause additional pollution. A law suit by Cherokee Forest Voices stopped this timber sale

- Sale proposed for biologically significant area in Naotahala NE

A US Dept. of Agriculture Inspector General's Report of January 1999 documented serious deficiencies in 12 out of 12 Forest Service (USFS) timber sales, specifically with respect to sensitive species. Yet another such damaging timber sale would have occurred had it not been for the vigilance of the Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project. In May 1999, SABP informed the Forest Service of the presence of a sensitive plant species in the area of a proposed timber sale in Riley Cove, which borders a Roadless Area known for rare ecosystems. Despite this notification, commercial logging of 43 acres was approved in July 2000. It took an appeal by SABP to get the sale withdrawn. SABP has pointed out that the necessity for constantly watchdogging the USFS is a good argument for ending commercial logging in public forests.

## 5. TVA NEWS

### A. TVA' Natural Areas slot to be filled

TCWP had been concerned that the position of TVA Natural Areas Coordinator had not been filled since Judith Bartlow retired in early May. There are currently 82 Natural Areas, covering ~10,200 acres on TVA public lands, including Small Wild Areas (like Whites Creek), Habitat Protection Areas, Ecological Study Areas (like Worthington Cemetery), and Wildlife Observation Sites. The Natural Areas Coordinator manages the huge and expanding heritage database; interacts with state and federal agencies, land conservancies, and citizen groups; oversees contractors doing environmental reviews; and establishes guidelines for the protection and management of existing natural areas as well as criteria for making additions to the system of nature preserves.

After contacts with staff of TVA's Natural Heritage Program and attendance at a recent TVA Green Group meeting, we learned that the position was frozen in FY2000, while TVA workforce restructuring was under way. It will, however, be filled within the next few weeks. Most of the responsibilities will remain unchanged, but several new ones associated with

outdoor recreation (hiking, bird watching, camping, etc.) will be added.

### B. TCWP comments on DEIS for water supply in the Duck River basin

In a recent Draft Environmental Impact Statement on "Future Water Supply Needs in the Upper Duck River Basin," TVA had proposed four alternatives (plus the usual "no action") (NL235 ¶4A). TCWP submitted comments opposing alternatives B (construction of a new 3,600-acre reservoir on Fountain Creek) and D (raising the height of Normandy Dam). The latter would (a) have disastrous effects on prime wildflower habitat in the 420-acre Short Springs State Natural Area, NE of Tullahoma, and (b) flood a 60-acre TVA Small Wild Area adjacent to the Natural Area.

There were also two pipeline alternatives, one (C) from a downstream intake on the Duck River, the other (E) from Tim's Ford Reservoir. While we had not strenuous objection to E, we preferred C, which would supply more water, require a shorter pipeline, and be less costly than E.

### C. Sign up to buy Green Power!

Although your electric utility probably offers Green Power (Oak Ridge, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, and the Powell Valley are among those that do), chances are that it has not informed you of this. Currently, 63% of TVA's total power comes from coal-fired plants, at a tremendous environmental cost (see, e.g., NL233 ¶9; NL226 ¶6C), and every kwh you consume equals one pound of coal burned. By participating in the Green Power Switch™, you pay for Green Power generation (solar, wind, and landfill-gas combustion) to be added to the Valley's total power mix. Each 150-kilowatt-hour block you sign up for adds just \$4 to your total monthly electric bill.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Inform your electric utility that you wish to participate in the Green Power Switch™. If you're not sure whether your power provider is a participant, contact the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) at 865-637-6055, or e-mail [Gil@mygreen.com](mailto:Gil@mygreen.com).

### D. River again fit for sturgeon

The sturgeon, which can grow to 8 ft long and 300 lb, and which can live to over 100, once thrived throughout Tennessee waters, then disappeared as a result of pollution and habitat al-

teration. But last July, 800 young lake sturgeons were released into the French Broad which, thanks to clean-up and TVA's environmentally improved dam management, is now considered able to again support the fish. The project is the result of a partnership between TVA, US Fish & Wildlife Service, TWRA, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and others. WWF recognizes the Tennessee River Basin as the aquatically most diverse place in the world.

#### E. TVA capsules

- TVA's Regional Resource Stewardship Council (NL229 ¶6C; NL232 ¶5; NL234 ¶5D) appears to be getting heavy input almost exclusively from people concerned about water levels in the tributary reservoirs; they hear from very few other citizens. Because many of TVA's non-power programs will require public support to stay alive, it is very important for us to get involved in the RSC; we can attend meetings (the next one is Jan. 18 in Nashville) and/or interact with individual members. Contact Steve Smith (865-637-6055) to find out more.
- TVA's plans to sell mineral rights in the Daniel Boone National Forest, reported in NL235 ¶5C, have been abandoned, at least for now.

### 6. OAK RIDGE AREA

#### A. Boeing Tract: should shoreline become part of development?

A 1,200-acre tract of land along the left shore of the Clinch River, roughly across from K-25, was at one time slated to be developed by the Boeing Co. DOE subsequently proposed to transfer it to a private company, Oak Ridge Properties, for residential/commercial/industrial development. The especially controversial part of the proposal is to include 182 acres of Clinch River shoreline lands (within the 500-year floodplain) in the transfer to the private developer. This is the subject of a pending DOE Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA). A recent communication from the Chamber of Commerce states: "The business community cannot allow the benefits of this development [i.e., inclusion of the 182 acres] to be overshadowed by those whomay mobilize to oppose it."

This riparian zone is home to several state-listed threatened and endangered species, and a Nature Conservancy study has designated the shoreline tract as of very high ecological significance. Moreover, these 182 acres should, rightfully, be TVA public land. TVA transferred cus-

tody of the tract to the AEC in 1959, but retained specific rights, including that of review of proposed construction activity. In August 1999, TVA wrote to DOE stating, "We understand that DOE no longer has a need for this land and is considering its disposal. We request DOE reconvey this parcel to TVA." TVA felt "a reconveyance would provide TVA with the necessary land rights to protect the shoreline of this valued riparian ~~zone~~ through the Shoreline Management Policy." Ignoring this request, DOE did not even invite TVA to participate in the drafting of the EA; in fact, by Nov. 9, key managers in TVA had not even seen a copy of the DEA!

Is DOE placing private development interests ahead of the public interest in the fate of these valuable Oak Ridge Reservation lands?

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Express your concerns to Katy Kates, Realty Officer, USDOE, POBox 2001, AU-61, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. The EA comment deadline is Nov. 30, but DOE should still be interested in your point of view. Send a copy to Ruben Hernandez, Vice President, Resource Stewardship, TVA, POBox 1589, Norris, TN 37828. For any additional information, check the AFORR web site (<http://www.kormet.org/aforr/>)

#### B. Land-use planning for the Oak Ridge Reservation

In July, representatives of several organizations (including TCWP) met with Leah Dever, Manager of the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Operations, to discuss the need for a long-term, holistic, land-use plan for the entire Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) (NL234 ¶7B). The importance of incorporating input from stakeholders and the general public in the planning process was emphasized by the groups, and Ms. Dever generally agreed on the need both for the planning and for incorporating public input.

In a recent letter, Ms. Dever writes that the Oak Ridge Operation (ORO) office is currently in the beginning stages of revitalizing and revising its Comprehensive Integrated Planning (CIP) document. She plans to bring the stakeholders together within the next three months to discuss the key issues concerning the land usage on the ORR. (See NL235 ¶6A for a brief summary of the wonders of this 34,000-acre area.)

In an article in the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* of Nov. 15, Frank Munger argues that "the best

thing the federal government can do with this land is leave it alone," to serve as a sanctuary for wildlife, a recreational site, and research park. "If you take 50% of an environmental research park and convert it to other uses," he writes, "the research doesn't lose 50% of its usefulness. More likely, the site loses its research possibilities as a whole."

### C. Three Bend Wildlife Area: Is Oak Ridge a DOE stepchild?

In June of 1999, Secretary of Energy Richardson announced that 3,000 acres of the ORR was being set aside as the Three Bends Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area (NL229 ¶78). The area includes the three peninsulas of Freels, Callahar, and Solway Bends, with a total shoreline of about 20 miles, some of which rises in high limestone bluffs. Establishment of the area is, however, still on hold, reportedly because DOE has not found the funds needed to allow TWRA to manage the area.

At Brookhaven, in the meantime, Sec. Richardson, on Nov. 10, set aside the Upton Reserve, 530 acres of pine barrens and wetlands on the DOE reservation. He announced that DOE would provide the US Fish & Wildlife Service with \$200,000 annually, over a 5-year period, for land management and research.

Of course it's important for the Three Bends Area to receive equivalent financial support for its formal establishment. It is, perhaps even more important to assure the integrity of the entire ORR, so that Three Bends does not become (in Frank Munger's words) a "mere buffer zone between industrial sites and condominium clusters."

## 7. NATIONAL ISSUES

¶4A, above, reports the National Forest Roadless Areas Conservation rule, one of the largest land-preservation efforts in US history.

### A. CARA didn't make it, but LCPII did

CARA (the Conservation and Reinvestment Act - NL231 ¶7) came oh so close to enactment, but Majority Leader Trent Lott did not let it get to the Senate floor, despite the urging of Pres. Clinton and over 63 Senators who co-signed a letter. CARA had passed the House (though Tennessee Reps. Duncan, Wamp, Van Hilleary, and Bryant voted against it) and was considerably improved by the pertinent Senate committee

(NL233 ¶7A). All it had to do was pass on the floor of the Senate.

What did pass, when it became apparent that CARA wasn't going to make it, was LCPII, a program that is not to be sneezed at. We try to summarize it in ¶7B, below.

### B. LCPII and the Interior Appropriations bill

LCPII = Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement. This new conservation program, which embodies many of the elements of the Administration's Land Legacy Initiative, was enacted as Title VIII of the Interior Appropriations bill (PL 106-292) signed by Pres. Clinton on Oct. 11. The monies made available by it, \$12 billion over 6 years, are *additional* to the regular Interior appropriations.

LCPII has various unique features. It groups a large number of conservation programs into 6 "baskets," each of which has a baseline funding for the next 6 fiscal years (FY2001 through FY2006). The programs within a given basket will vie for that basket's baseline funds for each of FY2002-2006; the amounts have been set for FY2001. In addition, for these same 5 years, the overall fund increases by \$120 million *annually*, and this extra amount can be dispersed to any or all programs at the discretion of the appropriators. Thus, LCPII is a mix: like CARA, it has *fixed* budget set-asides, but *within* these the Congress still plays a role as appropriator. Any unspent money will stay in the program and (in contrast with the present Land & Water Conservation Fund, LWCF) can *not* be used for other activities.

The following are some figures for FY2001 (in \$ millions).

Purpose	Regular Apprpr	LCPII
LWCF "basket"		
US Dept. of Interior*	164	130
US Forest Service	107	49
State matching grants	40.5	50
Urban & Historic "basket"		
Urban Parks & Recr.	10	20
Historic Preserv. Fund	73	15

\*NPS, BLM, USFWS

For a third "basket," called State and other Conservation Programs, the baseline funding for FY2001 is \$300 million. This includes programs such as the Cooperative Endangered Species

Fund, state wildlife programs, the Forest Legacy Program, and several others. There is also a "basket" for Federal Maintenance Projects for which the FY2001 baseline is \$150 million, spread between NPS, USFS, BLM, and USFWS.

Most of these figures represent record amounts of money in comparison with recent years. For example, during the latter 1990s, the state matching grants program of the LWCF received zero \$\$\$. In FY2001, Tennessee is going to receive \$1,676,595 under this program (but we need for the state to come up with matching amounts).

In addition to LWCF acquisition money, the National Park Service received \$1,389 million for operations, \$242 million for construction, and \$58 million for recreation and preservation. The Forest Service received \$230 million for recreation management and \$65 million for trails (about half of this for maintenance).

#### C. The worst riders did not stick

Thanks to major negotiating efforts by Pres. Clinton, most of the really bad riders that anti-environment members of Congress had attached to the Interior Appropriations bill were removed. The most dangerous of these riders would have (a) limited the President's power to designate national monuments (NL235 ¶7A), and (b) blocked completion of the Forest Service's Roadless Policy (NL235 ¶7B and ¶1A, this NL).

Among a few riders that did pass, one forbids federal agencies from transferring money to CEQ (the Council on Environmental Quality) for implementation of the American Heritage Rivers program. Another forbids permanent closure of landing strip on federal lands without state and FAA approval. A third one extends the test entrance-fee program for parks, forests, etc. through FY 2002. There were other riders of lesser interest.

#### D. Outlook for ANWR

It all depends on who ends up in the White House. And, in the Congress, the stage is set for a continuation of last summer's effort (\$2557) to increase domestic oil production by drilling in ANWR. Fortunately, the Senate's political climate will be somewhat improved (¶7E, below).

Might Pres. Clinton still be able to designate ANWR a national monument? A few months ago, former Pres. Jimmy Carter joined environmental groups in urging this. The Alaska delegation in Congress claims that ANILCA (the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980) has a "no more" clause that would forbid such a designation. It turns out, however, that this clause applies only to lands that are not already in a conservation area, and ANWR, of course, is (it's a National Wildlife Refuge).

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact Pres. Clinton (see p. 2) and tell him that one of the greatest things he could do before leaving office would be to designate the ANWR Coastal Plain a national monument.

#### E. Environmental significance of Congressional elections

Well, at least we have the results for Congressional races - or do we? (One we've been watching is still too close to call.)

The nonpartisan League of Conservation Voters had designated a Dirty Dozen (incumbents, who are notoriously hard to displace). Seven of the 12 were defeated, though one of these defeats (Sen. Slade Gorton, R-WA) is still not yet 100% sure. These outcomes, plus another one for an open seat, should greatly improve the environmental position of four Senate seats that had been occupied by extreme anti-environmentalists, namely, Spencer Abraham (R-MI), Rod Grams (R-MN), Slade Gorton (R-WA), and Connie Mack (R-FL). Unfortunately, this gain is partly offset by the loss of VA's Sen. Robb to an anti-environmentalist. In the House, three Dirty Dozen incumbents were defeated: Reps. Jim Rogan (R-CA), Steve Kuykendall (R-CA), Linda Runbeck (R-MN), and Bill McCollum (R-FL).

All six of LCV's "Environmental Champions" were reelected - three Republicans (Sen. Lincoln Chafee, RI; Rep. Jim Saxton, NJ; Rep. Chris Shays, CT) and three Democrats (Reps. Joe Hoefel, PA; Jay Inslee, WA; Jim Maloney, CT). Of 7 candidates on LCV's Earth List (pro-environmental candidates engaged in difficult races), 6 were elected, and the 7<sup>th</sup> is still undecided (Rush Holt, NJ). We were particularly pleased that Mark Udall and Jay Inslee were among the winners, and are keeping fingers crossed for Rush Holt.

**F. A major environmental disaster that did not get into the news**

In October, about 250 million gallons of coal waste spilled out of a retention pond at a coal-preparation plant. The coal slurry, which has the consistency of wet cement, has already devastated 75 miles of rivers and streams, and the muck has made its way to the Big Sandy and Ohio Rivers.

**B. TCWP NEWS**

**A. December Holiday Party**

Everyone should by now have received an invitation to the TCWP Holiday Party, December 14, 7 p.m., at the house of Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen (371 East Drive, Oak Ridge). Hope you can come!

**B. January Quarterly Meeting: Air Quality in the Smokies**

Our next Quarterly Meeting, on January 25, will feature two highly knowledgeable speakers: (1) Jim Renfro, National Park Service Air Resource Specialist, will update us on the status of air pollution in the Park and its effect on ecosystems and visitor experience; (2) Don Barger, Southeast Regional Director of the National Parks & Conservation Association, will provide an overview of advocacy efforts on this issue and how citizens can participate. The program will start at 7:00 p.m. in the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room. Refreshments will be served.

**C. Report on Annual Meeting**

About 50 people attended TCWP's Annual Meeting on October 28, held, like last year's, at the Norris Dam State Park Tea Room. The weather was glorious, and the Silent Auction items could be set up and viewed on the large deck (the auction raised about \$800).

After the morning program (summarized below), a hilarious awards ceremony (in which Mary Lynn Dobson and Marcy Reed gave away crazy hats as prizes to deserving members of the Service Committee), and a good catered lunch, there was a choice of three outings for the afternoon. Actually, it was possible to combine two of the outings (and many people did): a short hike through the spectacular rock formations of Savage Gardens (where we saw rare ferns and a cooperative snake), followed by a boat ride on Norris

Reservoir (last ride of the season!). Another group took a longer hike through the Norris watershed.

Summary of the morning program. State Parks director Mark Williams had to cancel at the last moment, but our two other speakers fully used the time for outstanding presentations. Scott Davis, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee, talked about the changing perspective of TNC. From concentrating on isolated purchases of habitat for species of special interest, emphasis changed, first, to ecosystem ecology, and now to functional landscapes, i.e., collections of ecosystems. The current ecological planning approach is outlining 63-64 large physiographic regions for which plans are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2002. Subsequent implementation will be very challenging because TNC figures that we have only 20-30 years left before possibly irreversible changes could occur. Because TNC obviously can't buy all the lands that need to be protected, it will work at building functional relationships with a number of constituencies. TNC has a history of not engaging in public policy, but feels there may be a need to develop proactive legislation.

Dodd Galbreath, Director of Policy for the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation, talked very knowledgeably about the general matter of a state lands policy, as well as about numerous specific issues TCWP has been involved in. The state lacks a clearly stated lands policy, mainly because of its budget problems and the absence of steady revenues. The failure to achieve tax reform is a major threat to the stability and viability of public lands, and might lead to more commercial activities on such lands. At the same time, the state has recently received, and is continuing to receive, additional lands: the TVA lands around Columbia (~12,000 acres), the Bridgestone/Firestone donation of Scott's Gulf (~10,000 acres), Cumberland Trail lands purchased with TDOT money, donations near existing State Parks, etc. Among other problems the state needs to tackle are air-quality policy for the Smokies, funding a place for OHVs to keep them out of sensitive areas, state water-supply policy, adjacent land uses around public lands, etc., etc.

**D. Report on other TCWP events**

- Public Lands Day activities at the Worthington Cemetery Geological Study Area, September

23. About 30 people participated in a plant-identification walk, led by Larry Pounds, and then set to work cleaning out exotic plants.

- "The last great wilderness project," a multimedia presentation on the impacts oil development would have on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), was presented in Oak Ridge, 9/24, and Knoxville, 9/25 (co-sponsored by the Harvey Broome Group of the Sierra Club). Over 30 people attended each of these inspirational programs, which turned out to be extremely timely since the Senate was about to take up S.2557 (see ¶7D, above), and many of us went home to contact our senators (the bill was not brought up).

#### **E. Gift Ideas: Bill Russell donates Obed print; and tee shirts are now available in color**

Bill Russell has donated a dramatic B&W photograph of the Obed River gorge to be made into a 16 x 20" poster. This signed poster is now available for \$12 (+ \$4 S&H) as a fund raiser for TCWP.

And, our tee shirts will be available on colored background after Dec. 15. These, too, sell for \$12 (+ \$4 S&H). To order one or both items, call Sandra K. Goss at 865-522-3909, or e-mail her at [skgoss@tspcr.com](mailto:skgoss@tspcr.com).

And, while your mind is on gift giving, don't forget the absolutely free TCWP membership you can give to a friend or relative (see our recent mailing).

#### **F. Special mentions**

- **Donald Todd**, decades-long TCWP member and past TCWP President, recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the *Morgan County News*. The paper ran a special tabloid with its October 5 issue that features numerous articles and congratulatory ads lauding Don's marvelous record of activities and achievements. The greatest among these include the Obed Wild & Scenic River, the Cumberland Trail, and Frozen Head - but mere mention of these barely scratches the surface (to say nothing of those not even mentioned).
- **Jenny Freeman**, back in August from a year of traveling (33,821 miles), camping, and hiking all through the USA (with forays into Canada and Mexico) with husband Bill Allen and daughter Mei, has plunged back into TCWP activities. But on top of that, she brainstormed the idea for the Oak Ridge School System to celebrate its standing among the country's top 100 (and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the

South), and got the Council to erect signs to that effect at city entrances.

- **Babs McBride** designed the attractive brochure and posters for our Annual Meeting. Many thanks!
- Our **new Mailing Committee** sprang into action in time for assembling NL235. Volunteers on that occasion were Mary Busey, Don Davis, Tom Thomas, Sandra Goss, and the usual stalwarts, Frank Hensley and Charlie Klabunde. Thanks to everyone!

#### **G. TCWP has new display board**

With the help of a mini-grant from the River Network/Tennessee Clean Water Network, Sandra Goss and Marcy Reed, with strong assistance from Ralph Harvey and Deb Haines, developed an attractive (and readily portable and modifiable) display board. The display had its debut at the SAMAB conference in Gatlinburg in mid-November.

---

#### **9. JOB OPENING; CALENDAR; RESOURCES**

**Job opening.** Executive Director, NY-NJ Trail Conference. Deadline 12/15/00. Must have BA/BS and 5+ years of management experience. For more information, e-mail [ed-search@nynjtc.org](mailto:ed-search@nynjtc.org) or visit <http://www.nynjtc.org/>.

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

- Dec. 5 and 7, Watershed meetings, Limestone and Sevierville (¶2D).
- Dec. 7, 2000, roping meeting on Obed Climbing Plan, Wartburg (¶1B).
- Dec. 8, 2000, Tennessee Conservation Voters Annual Fundraiser, 5:30-8:30, The Onyx Room, Nashville. TCV is the state's only lobbying coalition that gives voice to environmental organizations, including TCWP. For more information about the fundraising event, call 615-251-0309, or e-mail [tenneal@quindspiring.com](mailto:tenneal@quindspiring.com).
- Dec. 9, 2000, "2000 Tennessee Arctic Advocacy Workshop," Radnor Lake Visitor Center, Nashville, sponsored by the Alaska Wilderness League. (How can we keep oil development out of ANWR?) To reserve a space, e-mail [barriejeff@hotmail.com](mailto:barriejeff@hotmail.com).

- Dec. 14, 2000, TCWP Holiday Party (§ 8A).
- Dec. 31, 2000, Deadline for Climbing Plan comments (§1B).
- January 11, hearing on dam proposal for Obed tributary (§1A).
- January 18, Regional Resource Stewardship Council meeting, Nashville (§5E).
- January 25, TCWP Quarterly meeting on Air Quality in the Smokies (§ 8B).
- April 6-8, 2001, Tennessee Paddle 2001.
- May 21-23, 2001, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Lakes Management Conference, Knoxville. The theme will be "Sustainable Watersheds - Balancing Multiple Needs." (Call TVA's Sue Robertson, 423-751-3747).

#### Publications

- *The Tennessee Conservationist*, a fine bimonthly magazine that features excellent articles and beautiful photographs about our state's fauna and flora, natural areas, rivers, and parks, may go into oblivion unless it gets help soon. The magazine's annual budget of \$154,000 was zeroed by the legislature this year, so all state support will end by July 2001. Annual subscription rates will go up in January from \$10 to \$15. Prior to January, you can still get old rates, including a 3-year subscription for \$25 (*The Tennessee Conservationist*, TDEC, 401 Church Street, L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0440).
- Bridgestone/Firestone commissioned former Sen. Howard H. Baker and John Netherton, both well-known photographers, to produce the photo book "Scott's Gulf: the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness" (Rogue Elephant Press). The book contains over 100 photos, a brief history of the area, and stories from people who have enjoyed Scott's Gulf for decades. Profits from the sale of this book will be donated to TWRA to help maintain the Centennial Wilderness. \$39.95 in area bookstores (bookstores may order by calling Ingram Book Co. at 1-800-937-8100).
- "A Citizen's Guide to Fight Small Dams" is a manual on using political and legal means for fighting municipal, water-supply, and industrial dams that require permits under Sec. 404 of the Clean Water Act (it does not address hydro-power, agricultural, or federal dams). The manual was developed by the Georgia River Network and can be accessed on their web site, <http://www.savethe.org/dammanual/>.
- "Freshwater Ecoregions of North America" ed. by Robin Abell for the World Wildlife Fund, systematically assesses the biodiversity of North American Rivers, lakes and streams. (Island Press, 2000, 368pp. \$70.75).

- State Water Quality Fact Sheets, based on very extensive and diverse information sources, have been compiled by the Clean Water Network. Go to <http://www.cwn.org> and click on State Information. Forward copies, call 202-289-2421.
- TVA has published its Environmental Report for 1999. It includes information on pollution prevention, watershed health, research and technology, coal-plant emissions, energy efficiency, etc. For a copy, call 865-632-2333, or e-mail to [tvainfo@tva.gov](mailto:tvainfo@tva.gov). The report is also available on TVA's web site, [www.tva.gov](http://www.tva.gov).
- "Invasive Plants and their Effects on Natural Areas" is an illustrated brochure available by calling the SE Exotic Pet Plant Council (Kris Johnson) at 865-423-1707.

#### Miscellaneous resources

- There are numerous trails on TVA public lands. For information, call 1-800-TVA-LAND.
- The Knoxville Recycling Coalition has reopened its Waste Xchange at a new location, downstairs from its office at 1914 Ailor Ave, Knoxville. The exchange features all sorts of materials (desks, chairs, stationery supplies, etc.) that it picks up free from local businesses. The items are listed on [www.kormet.org/recycle](http://www.kormet.org/recycle). Hours are 10-2, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, or call 525-9694 to make a special appointment.
- If any group you belong to would like a presentation about the impacts of power generation and the Green Power Switch, contact the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, 865-637-6055, e-mail [Eabill@tncgreen.com](mailto:Eabill@tncgreen.com) or [Gil@tncgreen.com](mailto:Gil@tncgreen.com).

TCWP is a member of  
COMMUNITY SHARES