



January 20, 2002

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## 12. ACTION SUMMARY

#No	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
2C	US 127 and Clear Creek	Steve & Toni Roberts	Learn effective way to oppose US 127 rerouting.
4B	State park closures	Letters-to-Editors	Support proposals voiced by Mayor Ashe.
4C	State Parks Commission	State legislator	"Support HR.735/SB.556"
4D	Chip-mill permits	State legislators	"Support Forest Protection Act. HB260/SB265!"
5A	North Shore Road (Smokies)	US Congressman	"Oppose any riders exempting road from NEPA!"
5B	Ravensford exchange (Smokies)	National Park Service	"This exchange is dangerous and harmful to Park!"
6A	SAFC's Conservation Vision	TCWP	Join Public Lands Comm.; attend April 12-13 Summit.
6B	Southern Forest Resource Assmt	USFS, by Feb. 1	"A wider range of solutions need to be addressed!"
8	Oak Ridge/Knoxville area	Various (see articles, #8)	Attend bypass hearings. Encourage Pine Ridge monitoring.
9A	Oil drilling in fragile lands	Your US senators	"Such drilling won't give us energy independence!"
9B	Clean Air Act	Pres. Bush	"Do not gut NSR provision of Act!"
9C	National Monuments	US Congressman	"Oppose HR.2114!"
10	TCWP Events and activities	TCWP	Participate in meeting, hike, seedling bundling.

Senator John Doe  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Senator Doe  
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe  
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President  
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Sundquist  
Respectfully yours,

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To call any Rep or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772  
URLs: <http://www.house.gov/lastname/> and <http://lastname.senate.gov/> General contact info: <http://www.tv.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.

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**ERRATUM:** NL242 (11/19/01) was erroneously identified as "Newsletter No. 241" on its cover page. It was correctly identified on inside pages (top right corner). Please correct the cover page of your copy.

## 1. BIG SOUTH FORK NEWS

### A. Zone Management Prescriptions for Big South Fork GMP

In December, BSNRRA Superintendent Reed Detring issued a Status Report on the General Management Plan (GMP), which outlines the National Park Service's current thinking on "Zone Management Prescriptions." The following zones are listed in this preliminary outline:

- Natural Environment Recreation
- Sensitive Resource Protection
- Development and Visitor Use, first order
- Development and Visitor Use, second order
- Access
- Transportation, first order
- Transportation, second order
- Off-Highway vehicles (OHVs)

For each zone, the document briefly lists (a) the type of landscape where the zone is applied, (b) resource conditions and visitor experience to be aimed for, (c) appropriate management, visitor use, and development. The Sensitive Resource Protection Zone applies to cliff edges and faces; rock shelters, arches, and chimneys; cultural sites; wetlands and stream corridors; areas supporting species of concern; and visitor attraction sites. The Natural Environment Recreation Zone would apply to areas of natural landscape (both in the gorge and "adjacent area") capable of sustaining dispersed human use.

The OHV zone is applied to "areas previously or currently impacted by other land uses ... where OHV (including ATV) use on designated routes would not result in additional impact." But, disturbingly, it would also be applied to an "overlay" zone on the Natural Environment Recreation Zone. This latter application, which appears to have replaced two OHV-tolerant zones listed in an earlier draft, will demand our very close and critical attention. By National Park Service rules, it must be demonstrated the OHV routes would have no adverse impact on the environment.

### B. Subdivision development within BSNRRA boundary

A particularly critical portion of the 8,300 acres as yet unacquired for the 125,000-acre BSNRRA is the ~400-acre Gernt property on the upper North Whiteoak Creek, a clean stream and vulnerable contributor to the BSF watershed. The owners are intent on subdividing the parcel and have begun clearing and bulldozing for road construction. Though the land lies within the BSNRRA boundary, the Park Service currently lacks acquisition funds (NL242 ¶2C). Some TCWP members have approached the owners in an attempt to explain the financial benefits they could receive from donating conservation easements on those portions of the land that are situated within the gorge.

## 2. OBED NEWS

### A. Proposal to Include upper Obed in WSR boundary

Citizens in Cumberland County are presenting to their legislators a proposal to work for inclusion of the upper portions of the Obed and Daddys Creek in the Obed National Wild & Scenic River. After the Obed was included in the study category of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act in 1968, the subsequent thorough study by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation found that 100 river miles were highly qualified for designation under the Act. At the last minute, however, opposition by a few individuals caused the Cumberland County portions to be deleted from the authorizing legislation that was passed in 1976. A couple of avenues are available for now including the portions that were deleted 26 years ago.

### B. Status of Climbing Plan

The draft of the Obed Climbing Plan is currently under review by the Southeast Regional Office of NPS and is expected to be available to the public in mid-February as a Draft Environmental Assessment. A critical feature of this

Plan is that it will mandate NPS to study the biota on cliff faces and cliff tops as a basis for making decisions regarding areas to which climbing will be limited, and the manner in which such climbing can occur. For this study, it will be challenging to find a good scientific control for the cliffs that have already been impacted by climbing for a decade.

### C. Proposed Hwy 127 "Improvement" could harm Clear Creek

The Tennessee Dept. of Transportation (TDOT) has proposed a \$54-million improvement for a section of US 127, beginning at I-40 and ending at Hwy. 62 in Clarkrange. One of the alternatives ("A") could adversely impact Clear Creek, upstream from where it enters the Obed Wild & Scenic River.

Alternative "B" essentially follows the course of the present US 127 (except for rounding off a few curves) which would be widened to a 4-lane highway with a turning lane. Alternative "A", on the other hand, is an entirely new road that cuts through fields and forests, and divides farms. A limited-access 4-lane highway with a 48-foot median, its right-of-way would occupy a width of 250' and would require the acquisition of 334 acres (as compared to 190 acres for "B"). Its location would be much closer to Clear Creek, and it would require two new bridge crossings.

Following a TDOT information meeting in June 2001, the overwhelming majority (almost 3 : 1) of local residents expressed a preference for Alternative "B", as did virtually every local business owner along US 127. Despite this very clear public preference (which even includes the County Commissions of Cumberland and Fentress County), current indications are that TDOT will choose "A".

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact Steve and Toni Roberts, 931 484-0103 (363 Dave Garrett Rd., Crossville, TN 38571) for up-to-date information on the most effective way to oppose Alternative "A".

## 3. THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU

### A. Good news about the Forest Legacy Program

A few months ago we asked for your help in getting the northern Cumberlands qualified for

the Forest Legacy Program (FLP). Your efforts are well on the way to bearing fruit.

The FLP was designed to encourage the protection of privately-owned forest lands. It complements private, federal, and state programs by either directly supporting (up to 75% of the cost) property acquisitions, or by supporting efforts to acquire donated conservation easements.

To be eligible for FLP funding, a tract must fall within a predetermined "Forest Legacy Area." Proposals for such FLAs are made by a multi-agency Forest Legacy Committee, which serves as the state's liaison to the US Dept of Agriculture (Forest Service). The northern Cumberland Plateau (which encompasses unprotected lands around Big South Fork, Pickett, Obed, etc.) had not heretofore been designated as an FLA, partly because there had been insufficient expression of support for such a designation.

Such support was recently generated (NL241 ¶1), and on January 8, the Committee finalized boundaries of a proposed North Cumberland Forest Legacy Area (NCFLA). In general, this extends north of I-40 to the Kentucky border, and eastward from US 127 through Campbell and Anderson Counties (absorbing three other FLA currently on the books). The committee's formal request for creation of this NCFLA has been transmitted to the USFS in DC. We thank all of you who wrote in behalf of this Area.

### B. Alliance for the Cumberlands to Meet in March

(Contributed by Jenny Freeman)

In November 2001, at the invitation of TCWP, almost 30 organizations and agencies from Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, and North Carolina met in Oak Ridge and formed the Alliance for the Cumberlands. The formation of the group occurred after a day's discussion of ways to protect the remaining undeveloped land on the Cumberland Plateau. We agreed that communication among ourselves was a top priority. To that end, the Alliance will meet again in March in Rugby. Between now and the meeting, TCWP's Public Lands Committee, under the leadership of Mary Lynn Dobson, will issue a survey to Alliance members asking them to submit ideas about goals for the Alliance, ways we can increase communication, and how to organize such a disparate group in the most effective way.

#### 4. STATE NEWS

##### A. *Cumberland Trail adds 5000 acres of Bowater lands*

The Cumberland Trail Conference (CTC), in partnership with Tennessee State Parks and the Conservation Fund, is in process of purchasing 5,000 acres from Bowater Inc. for \$2.5 million. This land encompasses three gorges that drain Walden's Ridge in northwestern Hamilton County, and will contain 30 miles of the Cumberland Trail. The gorges (Rock, Possum, and Soddy Creek) will be linked in the south to Bowater's North Chickamauga Pocket Wilderness, and will themselves be dedicated as "pocket wilderness areas" that provide hiking, camping, swimming, fishing, hunting, and whitewater opportunities.

The State's contribution to the purchase price comes from federal recreation-trail funds, and it must be matched on a 50:50 basis. The CTC now has to raise \$1.2 million to complete the deal. Any donations for this purchase can be sent to "Gorges," Cumberland Trail Conference, 19 Easy 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Crossville, TN 38555.

##### B. *State Park closures*

[Contribute by Jenny Freeman]

Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe has proposed the idea of "pennies for parks", i.e., using TDOT moneys (1 cent of the 21.4-cent/gallon tax on gasoline) to reopen and fund state parks (NL242 ¶3C). In another move against TDOT, he is also asking for "first grabs" at federal road moneys that are normally administered by TDOT for local projects. Mayor Ashe has also endorsed the idea (proposed by citizens ever since 1996) of creating a parks commission to manage state parks, thereby taking parks out of the political arena (see ¶4B, below, for a bill that would accomplish this). Finally, he has called for a state-wide summit, bipartisan in nature (and possibly chaired by former Governor Lamar Alexander), on parks and their funding and management. Kathleen Williams (Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation) and Jenny are organizing "Tennesseans for State Parks" to follow up on these proposals.

In the meantime, other proposed "fixes" are in the works. Sen. McNally introduced a bill that would require approval by the full legislature before the administration could move to close a park. Subsequently, the Sundquist administration proposed a supplemental appropriations bill for \$8 million for parks and homeland security. Should

either of these bills pass, the earliest that any of the closed parks could reopen would be March.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper supporting Mayor Ashe's initiatives. In Knoxville and Oak Ridge, you can e-mail to [letters@knews.com](mailto:letters@knews.com) and [letters@oakridge.com](mailto:letters@oakridge.com). Ask 5 other people to write as well. Such a letter-writing campaign, particularly right now as the General Assembly opens, can make an impact. For additional information about these issues, e mail Jenny at [alfree1@worldnet.att.net](mailto:alfree1@worldnet.att.net).

##### C. *State Parks Commission bill in the legislature*

It has become apparent over the years (and was again demonstrated by the recent state park closures) that politics play too much of a role in the decision-making appointing state parks. Additionally, political appointees - rather than people with education or experience in resource management - hold the highest positions in the state-park system.

Last year, the Sierra Club drafted, and worked for passage of, SB.735 (Jo Ann Graves)/HB.556 (Mike McDonald), which would create an independent commission that would take over all functions and management of the system, and would hire a professional executive director to operate the system under guidelines established in the bill. This bill passed various committees but was deferred for further action until 2002.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your state legislators (see Political Guide) to support SB.735/HB.556, pointing out that the recent state-park closures have made this bill's passage more appropriate than ever.

##### D. *Chip-mill permit bill needs our help*

The dramatic increase in clear-cutting on the Cumberland Plateau is associated with the unhindered proliferation of chip mills. The clear-cutting causes ecosystem destruction, stream sedimentation from denuded soils, and economic damage to the tourism, recreation, and value-added-wood-products industries. A bill drafted by SOCM, the Forest Resources Conservation Act, HB.260 (Odom)/SB.265 (Fowler), addresses this problem by requiring that new or expanding chip mills (processing at least 80,000 tons of pulpwood annually) apply for a permit. TDEC (Dept. of

Environment and Conservation) then performs a forest-resources review to determine whether there is sufficient timber in the area to supply the proposed facilities. The decision to grant or deny the permit is based on this evaluation and on an assessment of what the environmental and economic impact of an additional chip mill would be. The bill would not regulate sawmills, landowners, loggers, and it would not cost taxpayers anything.

During the 2001 legislative session, the state (Forestry Division in the Dept. of Agriculture) lobbied harder against the bill than did the industry, and HB 260/SB 265 ended up stuck in the House Conservation & Environment Subcommittee and the Senate Environment Committee. Our effort now must be to get the bill out of committee and onto the floor for a vote.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Urge your state legislators (see Politix! Guide, or call 865-426-9455 for information) to support the Forest Resources Conservation Act, HB 260 (Odom)/SB 265 (Fowler). Sen. Randy McNally, is a member of the Senate Environment Committee, which has jurisdiction over this bill. For more information, contact Daria Gere ([daria@socm.org](mailto:daria@socm.org), or 865-426-9455) or Brian Paddock ([bpaddock@twlakes.net](mailto:bpaddock@twlakes.net)).

#### E. State allows sewage discharge affecting Fall Creek Falls and cave

The victory in the battle against pollution of Dry Fork Creek (NL242 §5A) has now evaporated. The story begins in May 2000 when the state's Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) acted to permit a new sewage treatment plant for Spencer, Tennessee, to discharge into a clean mountain stream, Dry Fork Creek (NL237 §2A). This stream runs through an extensive and ecologically significant cave system (Rumbling Falls Cave) into Fall Creek Falls State Park.

A coalition of caving and environmental groups, led by the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC), fought this decision in the administrative arena and in court, and was victorious on September 26, 2001, when the WQCB reversed itself and voted 7:2 to rule its original permit-granting decision of May, 2000 as invalid.

At its very next meeting (October 24), however, the WQCB moved by a vote of 4:2 to allow an after-the-fact intervention by the town of

Spencer. There were clear indications of heavy-handed politics, which soon thereafter paid off, for on December 18 the WQCB voted 4:4 to grant the permit to Spencer. The vote came not on the merits of the case but on whether the Board had followed proper procedures when it originally issued the permit in May 2000. Because of this, the original vote was sustained despite the 4:4 tie.

The environmental coalition that opposes stream discharges of the treated sewage is fully sympathetic to Spencer's need for handling its waste. The coalition has worked with EPA to find an alternative method. An EPA study showed that land-application procedures for the treated sewage effluent were a feasible alternative and were indeed the most desirable option for the region.

#### F. The threat from exotic pest plants

The Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SE-EPCC) was formed several years ago to focus on issues related to the spread and impact of invasive exotic pest plants in the region's natural areas and wildlands. From April 3-5, the Tennessee state chapter will host the SE-EPCC's 4th annual symposium in Nashville (see §11 for details). Entitled "Rescuing Our Natural Heritage," the symposium will include presentations on applied ecology, control and management, outreach and education, state, regional, and federal actions, plant-introduction pathways, and screening and assessment. Check the SE-EPCC web site, [www.se-epcc.org](http://www.se-epcc.org), for agenda, registration form, and other particulars.

### 5. SMOKIES ISSUES

#### A. Taylor may try to sneak through a rider approving North Shore Road

In the fall of 2000, Rep. Taylor (R-NC) and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) secured a \$16 million appropriation to complete construction of the infamous 21-mile North Shore Road from Bryson City to Fontana Dam. This appropriation -- without an authorization -- was brought about by means of a last-minute rider attached in secret to the big Highway Appropriations bill (NL236 §3A). Fortunately, the National Park Service (NPS) determined that if that money is to be spent on the North Shore Road, it will be for planning and environmental compliance, rather than for cutting a new road.

Now it appears that Rep. Taylor may again be planning to use the secretive rider route, this time to attempt exempting the North Shore road from environmental analysis called for by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Just before the Christmas recess (12/17/01), Taylor introduced HR.3506 that would designate a portion of the Nantahala National Forest in honor of James and Elspeth McClure Clarke, who had worked to protect the forests of NC. This is a worthy and non-controversial bill that is bound to sail right through. There are indications that Taylor is planning to use it as the vehicle to tack on the harmful North Shore Road rider. This bill needs to be watched.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Find information on the status of HR.3506 at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d107A:> If you find that a North Shore Road rider has been added, immediately urge your Congressman to oppose the bill (see p.2). (The Thomas web site, <http://thomas.loc.gov>, provides the most current information about federal legislation, and you may want to consider book-marking it.)

## B. Opposition needed to Ravensford land exchange

[Based on contributions from Ray Payne]

The Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (EBCI) has asked the National Park Service (NPS) to give them 200 acres of bottomland in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) in exchange for land "of equal value" (NL236 ¶3C). The EBCI plans developments for some or all of this so-called Ravensford tract, located near the Oconaluftee Visitor Center on US Hwy 441 at the southern terminus of the Blue Ridge Parkway. For the swap, the EBCI has proposed to purchase a 218-acre parcel adjacent to the Waterrock Knob Visitor Center along the Blue Ridge Parkway. However, this parcel is not within the boundary of any national park, as required by law for NPS land swaps.

Among reasons for opposing this land exchange are the following:

1. The exchange would set a very dangerous precedent for removing land from our national parks for the convenience or profit of adjacent park owners. Which portion of what national park is next on the cutting block?
2. Ravensford tract is a bottom-land with wetlands, rare in the Smokies.

3. The All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory in the tract has discovered several species previously unknown in the Park, some of which may be rare or endangered.
4. The area is on the National Register of Historical Place and, unlike Elkmont, has truly historical significance. It is yielding artifacts of native people and evidence of the lives and activities of the earliest settlers.
5. According to a recent study, views from the southern end of the Blue Ridge Parkway would be seriously impaired if the tract is developed.
6. Once removed from the Park, development of the tract is not restricted to use for schools -- the reason given by the EBCI for wanting it. (In the past, the Cherokees had several times requested the land for developing resort facilities.)
7. The exchange, as proposed, may violate NPS regulations and/or law pertaining to land exchanges.
8. The NPS Organic Act mandates that the NPS protect the resources of our National Parks.
9. Above all, no benefit whatsoever to the GSMNP is demonstrable from the exchange.

The NPS is undertaking a NEPA analysis, for which the scoping process is about to get under way. Scoping meetings will be held in Cherokee (Feb. 12), Knoxville (Feb. 13), and Asheville (Feb. 14). For the exact locations and times, call Greg Kidd, NPS, 865-329-2424, or see newspapers.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** There will be an opportunity at the scoping meetings to voice opposition to this land exchange, so we must turn out and voice our views. (The landswap is primarily a political issue.) By 2/28/02, send comments and questions to Attn: Anita Jackson, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, Planning and Compliance Division, 100 Alabama Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303; tel. 404-562-3124 ext. 705.

## C. Elk doing well

The 25 elk from Land Between the Lakes that were released in the GSMNP about a year ago are thriving and have produced at least 3 calves. Apart from a couple of temporarily straying bulls, the herd has stayed within a 2-mile radius of their 3-acre acclimation pen in the Cataloochee Valley. These elk are part of a 5-year project. A second herd is arriving this month from Elk Island National Park in Canada.

## 6. REGIONAL FOREST ISSUES

### A. Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition offers Conservation Vision

(Contributed by Marcy Reed)

The Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition (SAFC) is a non-profit organization based in Asheville, North Carolina. Its mission is to bring together national, regional, state, and local environmental organizations from Alabama to Virginia to protect the public lands and heritage of the Southern Appalachian region. The Southern Appalachian legacy -- high mountains and forests, rivers, and rural countryside -- is at risk from mismanagement, excessive road building, and irresponsible land development. SAFC has developed a Conservation Vision with wide-ranging goals for preserving the Appalachian region and restoring it to its former beauty.

This Conservation Vision is to develop a network of linked conservation areas across the Southern Appalachian region, areas that would:

1. provide sufficient acreage and connectivity to sustain the habitat and ecological processes for all native species;
2. be permanently protected from development, mismanagement, etc.;
3. be suitable for reintroduction of lost species; and
4. be protected within a landscape that affords gradual transitions from natural to urban settings.

The following Campaign Plan is SAFC's vehicle for accomplishing its Conservation Vision.

1. Efforts to protect priority public lands by use of designations such as wilderness, wild and scenic river, national recreation area, etc.,
2. Identification coordination and funding of land acquisition -- public or private,
3. (particularly, Forest Service) reform, and defense of the roadless policy.

More detailed strategies have been developed for each component of this Campaign Plan

Presently, SAFC is working to accumulate endorsements for the Conservation Vision. TCWP's Public Lands Committee will be supporting the Vision and will be working with SAFC to further their goals. A summit will be held April 12 and 13 in Asheville for the purpose of celebrating the launching of the Conservation Vision and educating people about its purpose. SAFC hopes to bring together activists, legislators, educators,

environmentalists, and the general public at this summit.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** If you are interested in being part of the Conservation Vision, join TCWP's Public Lands Committee. Contact Marcy Reed at 865-691-8807, Sandra Göss at 865-522-3809, or Mary Lynn Dobson at 865-354-4924. If you would like to attend the summit, call any of these numbers.

### B. Southern Forest Resource Assessment draft is out

In April 1999, four federal agencies (USFS, EPA, USFWS, and TVA) initiated the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA) with a comprehensive regional study designed to analyze the status and possible future of forests in 13 southern states. The Southern Region of USDA's Forest Service acted as lead agency and has now released a draft Assessment Report, which may be viewed at [www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain](http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain). The sustainability of forests in light of increasing urbanization and timber harvests, changing technologies such as chip mills, forest pests, climate changes and other factors is among the topics analyzed.

The assessment identifies very troubling trends. The Southeast, with only 40% of the country's forests, contributes to 77% of the annual pulpwood production. Each year, 5 million (!) acres are being clear-cut. Developments and mono-culture pine plantations are replacing biologically diverse hardwood forests. Between 1953 and 1999, the acreage in planted pines grew from 2 million to 32 million, and the SFRA estimates that it will grow to 54 million by 2040. In addition, forest acreage is being lost in a big way to urbanization and similar developments -- 12 million acres between 1992 and 2020, and another 19 million projected between 2020 and 2040.

While the SFRA identifies these horrendously threatening trends, it offers few meaningful solutions. It identifies urban sprawl and population growth as the chief threat to southern forests, and its recommendations are virtually limited to reducing urban sprawl. Environmentalists point out that the timber industry is simultaneously cutting trees and, through its unprecedented divestiture of lands and other activities, playing a lead role among the developers that contribute to urban sprawl.



The SFRA lauds the existence of Best Management Practices (BMP) legislation in most of the Southern states, but fails to note the almost complete absence of oversight over, and enforcement of, these BMPs. There is little attention given to future practices that could meaningfully counteract the threatening trends, such as growing more pulp per acre, closer to existing pulp mills, increasing paper recycling, reducing paper use, etc.

Forest-industry spokesmen have lauded the SFRA, especially its emphasis on urban sprawl as the main culprit in forest loss. An industry front group, Treekeepers, has undertaken to vilify groups expressing opposite views; it has suggested, for example, that Dogwood Alliance leaders have links with ecoterrorists.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Comments on the draft SFRA report are due by February 1, and should address the completeness and accuracy of the work. They should be sent to Southern Forest Resource Assessment, USDA Forest Service, 1720 Peachtree Rd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30309.

## 7. TVA's NATURAL RESOURCE EFFORTS

### A. Buffering White's Creek SWA

Last year, Bowater, Inc. announced that it would sell a large pine plantation that surrounds TVA's Whites Creek Small Wild Area (SWA) on Watts Bar Reservoir (NL238 ¶6A). This SWA, designated in 1983, encompasses forest-covered ridges, hollows, and secluded coves, and provides views over deeply indented bays and relatively undeveloped lakeshores. It contains a lovely trail, partly constructed and maintained by TCWP. (TVA's SWA contact is Nancy Fraley, 865-632-1535.)

TCWP members have identified about 50 acres of Bowater land that is needed to protect the integrity of the trail and as buffer for the SWA (which would feel not nearly as "wild" if surrounded by houses and roads). We have approached Bowater to determine whether they would make a charitable gift of this acreage or accommodate us in some other manner. On January 10, they replied that "due to difficult busi-

ness climate" they could not meet our first request. They will, however, suspend the sales plan of the acreage in question until August 1, 2002, to allow us to come up with the purchase price, which they set at \$1,000 per acre.

### B. Stream-bank protection efforts: O.R. workshop February 28

TVA's Melton Hill Watershed Team and TCWP are sponsoring yet another one in the series of Streambank Protection Workshops. These are designed to inform landowners about the importance of buffers in reducing nonpoint-source pollution and stream-bank erosion literally in their own backyards. Participants will learn about a variety of native shrubs and trees that will protect and stabilize stream banks and enhance wildlife habitat. Such protection will reduce erosion and improve water quality in their watershed. Several different speakers will provide information and answer questions.

Participants will receive a bundle of several ready-to-plant native tree and shrub seedlings, selected because they grow naturally along stream banks in this area. A handout containing tips on how and where to plant the seedlings on stream banks will also be available.

The workshop will be held Thursday, February 28, 2002, 7:00 PM in the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room (refreshments will be provided). It is open to anyone owning property along a stream or pond in Anderson County. To register or for more information, contact Marcy Reed (865/691-8807 or [marcyreed@aol.com](mailto:marcyreed@aol.com)) or Sandra Goss (865/522-3809 or [skgoss@esper.com](mailto:skgoss@esper.com)). See ¶10C, this NL on information on how you can help bundle the seedlings for this workshop.

### C. TVA to sponsor guided wildflower walks in SWA

TVA's River Bluff Small Wild Area, below Norris Dam, is famous for its spring wild flowers. In 2002, TVA is sponsoring guided walks on the 3.3-mile loop trail on March 30 and April 6 (10:00 AM and 1:00 PM on each of these Saturdays). Participants will be divided into groups of 6-10, each with its expert guide. If you can act as guide for these walks, or for further information, contact Nancy D. Fraley, TVA Natural Areas Coordinator, 865-632-1535.

## 8. OAK RIDGE/KNOXVILLE AREA

### A. North Ridge Trail protection

TCWP's North Ridge Trail steward Tom Thomas is moving out of state to take another job. Tom has done a terrific job looking after the trail, interacting with the City, and initiating a project to get signs installed (see below). On top of all that, he has found a great successor. TCWP member Susan Donnelly, who is intimately familiar with the NRT and dedicated to addressing all possible problems. Susan is a true believer in the NRT's value to the community.

ATV and other illegal use of the NRT (NL241 ¶8A) have continued. Jenny Freeman and her family have in vain built several log/limb barriers to prevent ATV entry from the Timbercrest subdivision near the east end of the trail. She finally appealed to Josh Collins, head of the City Recreation Department and got a gratifyingly prompt response: on January 11, the City erected a 100-foot fence at the Scenic entrance. To her sincere thanks for the fence, Jenny added a request for signs to be nailed to it, specifically icons showing an ATV, a motorcycle, a horse, and a bicycle, each with a big slash across it.

Our more long-range project to get signs placed at 11 NRT entrances is in progress. In NL242 ¶8A we listed donors for 8 of the signs. Subsequently, donation was received from Joanne and Bill Marshall for a 9<sup>th</sup> sign. Our sincerest thanks to all donors. We are continuing our interactions with EQAB's Greenbelts and Open Space Committee to work for an ordinance that puts more teeth into greenbelt protection. If these efforts bear fruit, our signs will be able to state penalties for illegal use of the greenbelt.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** We need just two more donors. If you can contribute \$80 (or any amount) for a North Ridge Trail sign, write a check to TCWP, Inc. (that makes it tax deductible) and designate it "for signs." Send it to the address in box on p. 2. (If we collect too much money from this appeal, it will be used for other NRT-protection activities.)

### B. OR Reservation Land Use Planning

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Land Use Planning Group is hosting public involvement workshops to obtain input on land-use values and on various land-use scenarios for the west end of the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation. Everyone at-

tending will have the opportunity to learn about the land-use planning process and provide input through poster sessions, small group discussions, and individual discussions with Land Use Planning Group facilitation team members. All interested organizations or individuals are welcome to participate.

Two identical sessions of the workshops will be held on January 30, in the Cumberland Room of the Oak Ridge Mall: an afternoon session from 1:00 to 4:00, and an evening session from 6:00 to 9:00. Each session will be structured as follows:

- Poster viewing, 30 minutes;
- Presentation, 30 minutes;
- Small group workshops, 1 hour;
- Reports/wrap-up, 1 hour

For more information, contact the DOE Public Affairs Office at 576-0885. If you are unable to attend the workshops but would like to contribute your input to the land-use planning process, please send comments to Pat Parr at [parapd@ornl.gov](mailto:parapd@ornl.gov) or 865-576-8123.

### C. Hearings on Knoxville bypass

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) will hold four public hearings to discuss proposed Route 475, the Knoxville beltway or bypass. In addition to a "no-build" alternative, three alternative routes are proposed for this four-lane, full-access-controlled, interstate-quality highway connecting I-75 in Loudon County with I-75 in Knox County. For more information on these proposals, go to the TDOT Web site at [www.tdot.state.tn.us](http://www.tdot.state.tn.us) and click on "Hot Projects." The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has not been circulated, but there are two copies at the Oak Ridge Public Library.

The style of each of the 4-hour hearings will be "open house." In lieu of formal presentations, TDOT representatives will be present to provide information about the project, and interested citizens may arrive any time. Written statements and other exhibits may be submitted to Project Comments, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Suite 700, James K. Polk Building, 505 Deaderick St., Nashville, TN 37243-0332.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Check out the supplementary information about this project available on the web at <http://lightgate.com/blueroute/>. The four hearings will occur during the period from Feb. 19–Feb. 26. Plan to attend one of them (for dates and locations see ¶11, this NL).

#### D. **Notice of Violation Issued to Pine Ridge developer**

Responding to an alert by concerned citizens about the heavy load of sediment washing off the Pine Ridge development site into East Fork Poplar Creek, Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) staff visited the site on Dec. 16, a rainy day. Sediment is the chief pollutant to streams in Tennessee and has significant impacts on aquatic life. On Dec. 20, TDEC mailed a Notice of Violation (NOV) that found that inadequate "Best Management Practices" were being followed by the developer. The NOV requires the violator to revise his pollution-prevention plan (specifically with respect to retention basins), with the revision to be reviewed by TDEC.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Encourage TDEC to continue monitoring this site (John West and Baxter Wilson, TDEC, 2700 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville 37921). Send a copy to Paul Boyer, City Manager, (PO Box 1, Oak Ridge, TN 37831).

### 9. NATIONAL ISSUES

#### A. **Is it our patriotic duty to drill for oil in special areas?**

With the return of Congress after the recess, it is now more important than ever to urge our Senators to oppose opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling (see box below). The House having last August passed an energy bill that authorizes such drilling, and the Bush Administration pushing with all its might, only the U.S. Senate remains to protect the Refuge from losing its vast wilderness to the oil rigs (NL241 19A).

A little-noticed provision of the House-passed energy bill would strip national forest supervisors of their authority to restrict oil and gas leasing in environmentally sensitive areas. It appears aimed at previously imposed restrictions in ecologically and scenically special areas of the Bridger-Teton and the Lewis and Clark National Forests, but it would apply anywhere. None of this oil would give us energy independence. The USA, which consumes 25% of the world's oil supply, has only 3% of the world's resources. The remainder are located in the Persian Gulf region (about 25%), Venezuela, Nigeria, Mexico, Canada, etc. This fact is ignored by the Bush Administration's energy policy. Vice President Cheney keeps rebuffing requests to divulge infor-

mation about the people he met with in developing this policy. Could be that something will come out of the ENRON hearings.

It is unfortunate that those of us who are working to keep the Arctic Refuge and other special places protected have been labeled "unpatriotic" by the drilling proponents. Some statements quoted in the latest Wilderness Society Newsletter are pertinent to this accusation. "It is as much our patriotic duty to preserve these unique resources in our care as it is to respect the flag, help our neighbors, and defend our country." "I trust we have the integrity and imagination not to allow our environment, our natural preserves, and our wildlife to become additional victims of terror, magnifying the dimension and permanency of our loss."

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Keep urging your Senators (see p.2 for contact info) to oppose oil exploration and development in the Arctic Refuge. Let them know that the need for Arctic Refuge protection has not changed as a result of the terrorist attack.

ANWR is an irreplaceable national treasure. Drilling there is not a solution to any energy crisis and will not give us energy independence; the amount of oil there will not lower gas prices; it would take 10 years for any oil from the Refuge to reach the market; there are alternatives, especially, increased fuel efficiency. The Senate energy bill needs to address these alternatives.

#### B. **Administration trying to roll back Clean Air protections**

[From the League of Conservation Voters]

The Bush Administration is attempting to gut a key part of the Clean Air Act, called "New Source Review" (NSR). This key program, requires the oldest and dirtiest electric power plants and oil refineries to meet current air quality standards when they expand the plant and increase pollution. If President Bush has his way, many of these utilities that have made upgrades to their plants without installing up-to-date pollution control devices won't ever have to do so and we'll have to live with the thousands of extra tons of pollution in the air as a result.

Citizens and government officials alike spoke out at public hearings across the country this past summer to emphasize the need to maintain and enforce this Clean Air Act program. The NSR provision of the Clean Air Act has forced

polluting industrial facilities to comply with the law and clean the air that we all breathe.

The Administration's plan represents one of the most drastic attacks on the Clean Air Act since its passage over 25 years ago. The impact on our country's health and environment from this weakening of Clean Air Act standards would be very severe. President Bush should not reward his campaign contributors by rolling back the Clean Air Act. His duty to the country is to aggressively enforce the law by vigorously prosecuting companies that upgrade their facilities without cleaning up their emissions.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Without delay, call the White House (see p.2) and tell President Bush not to roll back the Clean Air Act by gutting the NSR provision! You can use points in the above article to make your case.

## C. Attacks continue on National Monuments

In addition to the Bush Administration's efforts to abolish or weaken protection for some of the 22 National Monuments that were designated during the last 5 years of the Clinton Administration (NL239 18A), certain forces in Congress have launched an attack on the Antiquities Act. It is this Act which gives the president the authority to protect special places by designating them as national monuments. Beginning with Theodore Roosevelt, this authority has been exercised by all but four presidents and has eventually led to the creation of some of our most beloved national parks and the protection of many special places. The latest attack comes from Rep Mike Simpson (R-ID), who introduced HR.2114, which would greatly limit the president's authority under the Act.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge your Congressman (address on p.2) to oppose HR.2114.

## 10. TCWP NEWS

### A. O.R. Reservation planning is topic of next Quarterly Meeting, 1/29/02

[For further info, contact Sandra K. Goss, 865.522-3809, [skgoss@espey.com](mailto:skgoss@espey.com)]

Dev Joslin, President of Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) and member of the DOE-ORR Land Use Planning Focus Group, will be the speaker at TCWP's first quarterly member-

ship meeting of 2002. After outlining the values of the current 55-square mile Oak Ridge Reservation, Dr. Joslin will

- summarize DOE's approach to the land-use planning process and its current scope;
- assess the role of focus groups and public meetings (and the shortage of public meetings, so far) in DOE's decision-making;
- outline the views and stances of pro-development and pro-conservation individuals on the Focus Group; and
- present his views on the productiveness of this process, where it is headed, and how you can participate and influence the outcome.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 29, at the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Come and bring friends.

### B. Opening on the Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board: apply by 1/29/02

A temporary opening on EQAB was created when a current member moved out of town. The term expires in September, providing an excellent opportunity to check out EQAB before deciding on a more long-term commitment. The EQAB website is <http://www.ci.oak-ridge.tn.us/eqab/>, and TCWP President Jimmy Groton, who serves on EQAB, has offered to talk to anyone who might be interested (you must be an Oak Ridge resident). This is a good opportunity to make a difference on Oak Ridge environmental issues.

A brief resume and expression of interest should be sent to the Mayor of Oak Ridge, David Bradshaw, PO Box 1, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, by Jan. 29. City Council will vote on the appointment on Feb. 4.

### C. Seedlings bundling for Stream-bank Protection Workshops, 2/2/02

For the past two years, TCWP has helped with the bundling of seedlings needed for TVA's series of Stream-bank Protection Workshops. Once again, we have undertaken to help with this effort. (We are also co-sponsoring the Oak Ridge workshop on 2/28/02, see 17B, above.)

Bundling will take place Saturday, Feb. 2, starting 8:30 AM, at the TVA Maintenance Area at the top of the hill at the Melton Hill Dam Reservation (off of Highway 95 between Oak Ridge and Lenoir City). Lunch and drinks will be provided. Dress for cold weather. If you can help, or need more information, contact Marcy

Reed (865/691-8807, [marcyreed@aol.com](mailto:marcyreed@aol.com)) or Sandra Goss (865/522-3809, [skgoss@esper.com](mailto:skgoss@esper.com)).

## D. Oak Ridge Reservation North Boundary hike, February 23

Everyone is invited to join hike leaders Jean Bangham and Ed Sonder on Saturday, February 23 for a seven-mile hike along the northern boundary of the Oak Ridge Reservation. Hikers will meet at 9:00 at the former guard station at the west end of the Oak Ridge Turnpike (Hwy 95), and from there will carpool to the starting point. This hike is mostly downhill on government patrol roads. It is rated easy/moderate. Hikers should wear sturdy shoes and bring rain gear, water, and a snack.

## 11. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

Events and deadlines calendar. (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, [skgoss@esper.com](mailto:skgoss@esper.com); or Marcy Reed, 865-691-8807, [marcyreed@aol.com](mailto:marcyreed@aol.com)).

- Jan. 29, TCWP features Dev Joslin on Oak Ridge Reservation planning process (§10A).
- Jan. 29, deadline for applying for EQAB opening (§10B).
- Jan. 30, Oak Ridge Reservation Planning workshops (§8B).
- Feb. 1, comment deadline for Southern Forest Resource Assessment (§6B).
- Feb. 2, Crane watching at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge: thousands of Sandhill cranes, and possibly some juvenile Whooping Cranes. Program at nearby Birchwood School. For info, contact Ken Dubke, 423-499-3584.
- Feb. 2, Seedling bundling (§10C).
- Feb. 12-14, hearings on Ravensford land exchange (§5B).
- Feb. 19-26, TDoT hearings on Rt 475 (Knoxville bypass). (§8C). All are from 4-8 PM (except Feb. 25, 4:30-8:30 PM)  
Feb. 19, Oak Ridge Civic Center;  
Feb. 20, Lenoir City, North Middle School;  
Feb. 25, Clinton, Anderson Cy. High School;  
Feb. 26, Karns Primary School
- February 23, TCWP hike on ORR North Boundary Trail (§10D).
- Feb. 28, comment deadline for Ravensford land exchange (§5B).
- Feb. 28, Oak Ridge, Stream Bank Protection workshop (§7B).
- March 30 and April 6, hikes on River Bluff Trail (§7C).

- April 3-5, BellSouth Building, Nashville, Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium (§4F). See <http://www.se-ppc.org/doc.cfm?id=286>
- April 12-13, Asheville, Summit on Southern Appalachians Conservation Vision (§6A).

## Resources

- TVA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Environmental Report includes information on watershed conditions and on TVA's improvement efforts. It can be downloaded from the web site [www.tva.gov](http://www.tva.gov), or you can request a printed copy by calling 865-632-4677.
- A National Academies report examines the extent to which climate change in the 20th century may be attributable to human activities and characterizes scientific certainties and uncertainties in climate change. (The report notes that U.S. carbon dioxide emissions increased by more than 3% last year, the largest jump since the mid-1990s) <http://www.nationalacademies.org/headlines/#1115>

*Compensating for Wetland Losses Under the Clean Water Act* is a National Academy of Sciences report available at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10134.html>

- *Energy Research at DOE: Was It Worth It? Energy Efficiency and Fossil Energy Research 1978 to 2000* is a National Academy of Sciences report available at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10166.html>
- *Arctic Refuge: A Circle of Testimony* is a collection of writings about the Refuge by over 30 writers, including Barry Lopez, Rick Bass, and Hank Lentfer. For ordering info, visit [www.milkweed.org](http://www.milkweed.org).

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