



January 26, 2003

Taking Care of Wild Places

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Roadless Rule reinstated ¶5A

3,040-acre easement for ORR ¶6A

Endangered Species Act menaced ¶7B

10. ACTION SUMMARY

No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
2A	Scrippmine for Royal Blue WMA ?	TVA	"Hold hearings. EIS (not just EA) needed to assess damages!"
2CB	TDOT Reform Campaign	Jeff Barrie, coordinator	"Where will February meetings be held?"
4D	Elkmont Plan (Smokies)	NPS	Important to attend Feb. 1 meeting and/or send comments
5B	Cherokee NF Plan revision	Regional Forester	"The 'no-commercial-logging' alternative must be included!"
6A	Land-use planning for ORR	Gerald Boyd, ORR Manager Rep. Wamp	"Work like that of Focus Group needed for entire Reservation!" "Thanks for urging continuation of land-use planning process!"
7B	Endangered Species Act	US Representative End. Species Coalition	"Oppose Hansen's ESA 'reform' bill and similar measures!" Join Coalition
7F	Transportation bills	US Sens. And Rep.	"Oppose Transp. Empowerment, EXPDITE, MEGA Stream!"
8A	Cedar Barrens Management	TCWP	Volunteer for Barrens management activities (see ¶6B)

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

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

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Bredesen
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist:
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-1264
web: <http://frist.senate.gov>, click "Contact"
Local: 865-602-7977

Sen. Lamar Alexander:
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398
web: <http://alexander.senate.gov>, click "Contact"
Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252)

Rep. Zach Wamp:
Phone: 202-225-3271
FAX: 202-225-3494
Local: 865-576-1976

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.tcnv.org>
Note that mail to Congress is still slow following the anthrax scare. Consider adding other modes of communication.

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: Cindy Kendrick, 865-705-1804 (h).
Executive and Membership-Development Director: Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809, SKGoss@esper.com
Newsletter editor: Lee Russell, 865-482-2153.
Internet: <http://www.kornet.org/tcwp/>

1. OBED NEWS

A. Obed Manager is leaving NPS

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Kris Stoehr has announced her plans to retire from the National Park Service effective May 1. She has served for the past several years as the highly effective Manager of the Obed Wild and Scenic River, and we have had many fruitful interactions with her. Kris and her husband recently became parents for the first time. We wish them much happiness. — A new manager had not been named at press time.

B. Oil-drilling policy: regulatory changes being recommended

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Concern over the oil-well blow-out and fire that polluted a section of the Obed National Wild and Scenic River in mid-July is driving changes in requirements and practices for oil and gas drilling in Tennessee. The State instituted interim requirements immediately following the disaster and established a study committee to review its oil and gas regulatory program (NL248 ¶1). The study group was composed of staff from the Departments of Environment and Conservation and Economic and Community Development. The group established a web site with information and mechanisms for input, held a public meeting in Wartburg in December, and conducted several working meetings/calls with representatives of industry, other agencies, and environmental groups (including TCWP). On January 17, the committee released its non-binding recommendations, some of which would require rulemaking and possibly changes in state laws. Key recommendations are outlined below.

- Work with the Tennessee Oil and Gas Association (TOGA) to create a \$10-million oil-spill insurance policy for all TOGA members. Require non-TOGA members to carry appropriate insurance, bonds, or cash.
- Investigate creation of a fund into which every driller would pay fees for closing high-risk oil wells. Consider using more supplemental environmental project funds to close high-risk oil wells.
- Strategically place spill trailers to enable more rapid response, particularly near "highly sensitive waters." Require drillers to maintain an interim spill kit in their possession.
- Require mandatory training for all drillers and holders of permits

- Promulgate these current interim policy measures into regulations:
 - mandatory blowout prevention;
 - erosion control plans;
 - expanded use of tanks and berms;
 - 300-ft buffer from high-quality, highly vulnerable waters;
 - heightened safety measures and minimum standards to allow narrower buffers where unique situations warrant it; and
 - expansion of "no disturbance zone" from 25 to 50 ft.
- Establish an enforcement coordinator
- Reform the permit/application process. Assure that public-notice requirements are consistent with state law. Require applicants to identify proximity to managed areas.
- Require improved and more detailed drilling waste disposal criteria.
- Develop requirements to remove or properly secure remaining flow lines.
- Evaluate moving the Oil and Gas regulatory program under the Environmental Bureau (e.g., Division of Water Pollution Control, Mining Section.) Consider transferring some functions of the Oil and Gas program to the Department of Economic and Community Development.
- Change the makeup of the Oil and Gas Board or eliminate it and transfer its duties to the Water Pollution Control Board.

The committee has submitted these recommendations for consideration by state officials under the new administration, regulated and environmental communities, and the public.

C. Chris Stubbs named Land Manager of the Year by Access Fund

[Based on contribution by Sandra Goss]

Chris Stubbs, Community Planner at the Big South Fork NRRA, has worked on many issues of interest to us; he also serves as NPS representative on the Alliance for the Cumberlands. In interactions with him we have delighted in his informed intelligence and openness.

He has now been named Land Manager of the Year by the Access Fund (for which Frank Harvey serves as Regional Coordinator), a national non-profit organization dedicated to keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment. TCWP and members of the climbing community partnered with Chris in developing an Obed Climbing Plan (NL245 ¶1C, NL247 ¶2E) that will limit climbing to the lower Clear Creek and a short contiguous segment of the

Obed, and aims to minimize adverse impacts to the cliffs in these gorges.

D. Obed clean-up day scheduled

The Obed WSR will participate in National River Cleanup Day, May 17. If you can help, be at the Visitor Center in Wartburg at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time to be assigned cleanup areas. To find out what to wear, bring, etc., contact Arthur McDade, Park Ranger, Obed WSR, 423-346-6294, or Arthur.McDade@nps.gov.

E. Volunteer paddlers help in survey of oil damage

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

In mid-December, TCWP members and other area white-water enthusiasts guided Scott Cole, who has been contracted by the National Park Service's Washington office to do an independent review for the Natural Resources Damage Assessment following last summer's oil spill. Cole is covering recreational impacts.

Patrick Martin, TCWP member and president of the East Tennessee Whitewater Club, reports: "The people on the trip were as varied as their boats, and they all had a unique perspective of the River system. Off we went to Clear Creek to paddle from the Jett to Lilly Bridges. The creek was cranking at 3.9' on the Jett Gauge. It was a beautiful a trip!"

Other members of the party included: new NPS ranger Audie Critchley, area paddlers Robert Aldrich, James Lock, Jomo McDearmont, and Gordon Abney.

The next day, TCWP members Mike Kohlenberger and Frank Hensley guided Scott Cole from Devil's Breakfast Table to Nemo. Scott commented, "... gotta see the river go from big, to bigger, to biggest."

Thanks to these whitewater enthusiasts for carrying the message about the waters of our wonderful Obed system and their need for protection. If you want to be involved in this effort, call Sandra K. Goss at 865-522-3809 or e-mail skgoss@etspcr.com

2. AROUND THE STATE

A. Huge stripmine proposed for Royal Blue Wildlife Area; your comments needed

A draft environmental assessment (EA) is currently under review for surface coal mining on

Braden Mountain in the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area of Campbell and Scott counties. TVA is proposing to lease coal to a company that would remove 300,000 tons of coal per year over a 7.4 year period, altogether over 2.2 million tons. The area of proposed disturbance would be 526 acres, of which 86 acres are haul roads. The mine would be about the size of Skyline site near Fall Creek Falls State Park. Fill areas would total 90 acres, of which 33 acres would be valley fills(!); another 22 acres would be over orphan mines.

Royal Blue is within the highest-density breeding area in its entire range for the otherwise rare Cerulean Warbler. The stripmine would impact well over 100 (and possibly up to 150) breeding pairs of this species. These birds require mature hardwood forest, but the EA proposes to replant only 12.5 acres of the 526-acre site in hardwood forest (which takes many years to mature); 500 acres would be planted in a mixture of grasses and legumes. Thus, the impact to the local population of breeding Cerulean Warblers is likely to be permanent, or at least extremely long-lasting.

In addition to the Cerulean Warbler, 16 protected species are known to exist or potentially exist on the project site. TVA's EA states that impacts would be "temporary as most of these species would disperse into nearby similar habitats." This implies that the surrounding habitat is currently unoccupied or not at optimum breeding densities for these 16 species. There is no evidence that species displaced by mining are able successfully to establish themselves in nearby habitats.

And the Braden Mountain mine is not likely to be an isolated project. TVA has already identified 100s of additional acres of surface-mineable coal on Royal Blue WMA.

TVA proposes to follow criteria submitted in 1999. However, a review by state water pollution officials indicates that changes in regulatory policy since 1999 will require new permit conditions not previously envisioned.

The EA fails to prove

- how removing a mountain top and rebuilding it ("Cross Ridge Mining"), and filling valleys with removed soil, can be done successfully without having a significant impact on the adjacent watersheds and the water supply of nearby communities, and
- how at-risk and significant species (e.g., the Cerulean Warbler) will fail to be adversely impacted.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: By February 3, contact TVA and urge them to hold a hearing about this proposed mining. An EIS (and not just an EA) is needed to assess the potential adverse and cumulative impacts on the area (see info, above). Address your comments to Charles P. Nicholson, Senior NEPA Specialist, Environmental Policy and Planning, TVA, 400 West Summit Hill Dr., WT 8C, Knoxville/TN 37902-1499. Phone: 865-632-3582. Fax: 865-632-6855. E-mail: tvainfo@tva.gov (Attn: Charles P. Nicholson).

B. TDoT Reform Campaign under way

The TDoT Reform Campaign is a newly formed coalition of citizen groups across Tennessee that are fighting against the unwelcome presence of major TDoT road projects that threaten the integrity of their communities and surroundings. The coalition will urge the new Breiden Administration to suspend all activity on road projects against which there is well-documented public opposition until a thorough audit can be performed of the necessity for, and impacts from, the projects, and until workable alternatives are explored.

Following a set of meetings to be held across the state during the next 3 weeks, the TDoT Reform Campaign will recommend policy changes that will bring about the following:

- respond to citizen concerns,
- enforce the law (TDoT was the state's most frequent water polluter during the past decade),
- require accountability,
- open the planning process,
- create more choices (e.g., alternative transportation, mass transit) and evaluate the real costs of transportation.

The first meeting of the Campaign was held in Nashville, and the second and third are scheduled for Feb. 8 and 15 at Memphis and Knoxville, respectively. To find out more about location and time of the meetings, call Jeff Barrie at 615-438-5060. Jeff is coordinator of the Campaign, a position funded by the Tennessee Sierra Club Chapter.

The new Commissioner of Transportation, Gerald Nicely, said that he would meet with representatives of the TDoT Reform Campaign and address their concerns.

C. Transportation dollars and sprawl

The Knoxville area ranked 8th worst in the nation in urban sprawl, and with this sprawl comes road congestion and air pollution. Where

our transportation dollars go has a tremendous influence on land use.

D. Natural Heritage Update

[From Hot List]

The Natural Heritage program staff has identified several issues for 2003. They are:

- proposing two new state natural areas and some expansions;
- defining a new vision for state natural areas;
- identifying a "most wanted list" of critical land-form and landscapes that have escaped protection;
- operational staffing for the scenic rivers program;
- more emphasis on invasive and exotic species;
- monitoring policy for mining under state-owned lands;
- stabilizing and increasing funding for land acquisition to keep pace with development and growth in the state.

Contact: Reggie Reeves (615) 532-0434

E. Brief Items

- The North Chickamauga Creek Gorge Natural Area draft management plan prohibited the use of mountain bikes, which, in this fragile area, can be quite harmful to soils and some vegetation. A petition by bikers objected to this ban [From Hot List]. Will the Division of Natural Heritage hold firm to their recommendation?
- The Cumberland Forest (NL247 13B) dedication originally scheduled for January 11 will be re-scheduled for some time in February, to be held in conjunction with an elk release.
- About 20 acres of Cumberland Mt State Park's forest were flattened by the recent tornadoes. Except for clearing blocked trails, the Park is planning to leave the flattened area as is (no salvage-cutting), for education and study purposes.
- Environmental spending as a percentage of the total state budget in 2000 was 1.36% for Tennessee. Not at the bottom of the list, but still low in comparison with nearby states (2.26% for MD; 2.0% for WV; 1.92% for NC). [From Hot List]

F. Get ready for State Legislature

The new Tennessee General Assembly is convening in February, and it will often be important to take quick actions on bills concerning environmental issues. For a semi-weekly text e-mail report of environmental legislative activity, send an e-mail to penny.h.brooks@vanderbilt.edu, and ask to have your name put on the Tennessee Legis-

lative Update list. This is an activity of the Tennessee Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club will also again be able to retain lobbyist Mike Murphy, a long-time environmentalist and a former member of the TN House of Representatives. Support for his services comes from the Sierra Club Defenders Fund, to which you can contribute by mailing a (non-deductible) donation to Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215.

A major lobby arm of the environmental movement in the General Assembly is Tennessee Conservation Voters (of which TCWP is a member organization). To reach them call 615-269-9090, or contact Stewart Clifton at stewartclifton@comcast.net or 615-305-2946

To follow the progress of specific bills, visit <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us> and plug in bill numbers at the appropriate place.

G. Recently protected lands in Tennessee

(The following are slightly abbreviated remarks made by Mary Lynn Dobson (chair of the TCWP Public lands committee) at our Annual Meeting)

"Our natural, cultural, and scenic areas are being lost at an alarming rate. Tennessee is 7th in the nation in loss of open space - 80,000 acres each year are bulldozed for developments. But good things are happening, too. When I tried to compile a list of the lands that have been protected recently - many just since the last meeting - I got chill bumps. And I want to share this impressive list with you. I may have some incorrect, I may not have them all. But here's a working list."

[Abbreviations: SP = State Park; SNA = State Natural Area; ac = acres]

- Addition to Fall Creek Falls SP, 1,309 ac.
- Anderson-Tully tract, 11,807 ac.
- David Carter tracts, 3,200 ac.
- Crutcher Farm, 1,093 ac.
- Millstone Mountain, 161 ac.
- Wolf River Cave, 33 ac.
- Scott's Gulf/Caney Fork Connector, 194 ac.
- Rock Creek Gorge, Little and Big Possum Creek Gorges, and Little and Big Soddy Creek Gorges (also Board Camp Creek, Deep Creek, Clemmons Creek, Middle Creek), 5,000 ac.
- Cumberland Forest, 75,000 ac.
- Bird Mountain addition to Frozen Head SNA, 1,300 ac.
- Black Mountain Crest, 550 ac.
- Black Mountain Western Slope, 300 ac.
- Foothills Wildlife Management Area, 535 ac.
- Meeman-Shelby SP, 9,000 ac.
- Auntny Hollow SNA, 27 ac.

- Carroll Cabin Barrens SNA, 200 ac.
- Duck River Complex, 2,100 ac.
- Addition to Couchville-Haley SNA, 5 ac.
- Addition to Ghost River-Leatherwood SNA, 220 ac.
- Addition to Colditz Cove SNA, 93 ac.
- North Chickamauga Creek, 37 ac

3. TRANSITION TO A NEW STATE ADMINISTRATION

A. Advice to the new governor

Starting not long after the election, numerous activities got under way for generating advice for the incoming governor. Representatives of the environmental community (including TCWP) formulated, and transmitted to the Transition Team, their input on critical appointments. These included Commissioners of Environment and Conservation, Agriculture, Economic & Community Development, and Transportation, as well as second-level positions within TDEC, specifically, Directors of State Parks, Water Pollution Control, and Air Pollution Control. No names were named, but, for each position, significant duties were outlined, and desirable and undesirable characteristics were enumerated.

The coalition Tennesseans for State Parks (of which TCWP is a member) sent Governor-elect Bredesen a list of desirable characteristics for TDEC Commissioner and for Director of State Parks. Currently, TCWP is writing to new Commissioner Child (13B, below) concerning the latter position.

Tennessee Environmental Council took the lead in organizing an environmental review session to formulate a collective view of the environmental community on key issues, especially those needing early attention. Some of these may be found in 13D, below.

B. New TDEC Commissioner

The new Commissioner of the Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Betsy L. Child of Knoxville, 49, most recently served as senior vice president of philanthropy for Covenant Health, a hospital system. From 1993 to 1999, she worked for TVA as vice president of community partnerships, and as senior vice president of economic development. From 1988 to 1993, she served as director of policy development and human services in the Knoxville mayor's office; and from 1982 to 1988, she headed up alumni programs for the University of Tennessee. In her job in the Knoxville mayor's office, Child dealt

with environmental issues such as waterfront development along the Tennessee River, which included greenway and water-quality initiatives.

When her appointment as TDEC Commissioner was announced, Child said: "We're blessed in Tennessee with an abundance of natural beauty and truly unique natural resources. We owe it to future generations to do all that we can to keep our environment clean and healthy."

Child is a native of Springfield, Ill., has a bachelor's degree and master's degree in education from Middle Tennessee State University, and has lived in Knoxville since 1982. She is a member of Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and a former board member of Knoxville's Ijams Nature Center.

John Noel, a well-respected Tennessee environmental leader, says: "she has the ability to define the problem and is effective at moving the ball and bringing forth a solution. I've met and worked briefly with her long ago and know her as a good person. While its true she is unknown in the Environmental Advocacy circles she is honest and open to the agenda of improving and protecting our state's natural resources."

The management structure of TDEC involves one deputy commissioner, three assistant commissioners, 19 divisions and division directors or managers. The Department oversees eight environmental assistance centers, 53 state parks, 66 state natural areas, 13 designated state scenic rivers, the Tennessee Historic Commission and 3,200 employees.

C. New Agriculture Commissioner

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) interfaces with environmental issues in several ways, perhaps the most important being that the Department is home to the Division of Forestry. The new TDA Commissioner is Ken Givens, just retired from the General Assembly (a Democrat from Morristown) where he chaired the House Agriculture Committee. He sponsored various bills relative to forestry and "right to farm," most of which were not supported by Tennessee Conservation Voters. On the other hand, Givens is an accessible and engaging person and it should be possible to have lots of access to him.

D. Needed environmental actions identified

(Excerpted from Hot List)

In the fall of 2002, TDEC Policy staff conducted several listening sessions to collect input from state environmental activists, citizens and private organization members on environmental is-

ssues of concern for the future. The following are selected items from this list:

Conservation Priorities

- Finish the Cumberland Trail
- Develop a "last great places to preserve in Tennessee" inventory
- Secure staff and resources to preserve land along state scenic rivers
- Review donation of Scott State Forest to Big South Fork NRR
- Review land-purchase needs in and around Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area
- Follow through on the Moccasin Bend National Park concept and consider expanding to include the Tennessee River Gorge
- Seek favorable policy for land trusts (incentive-based policy)

Environmental Priorities: Water

- Take more aggressive action to protect the quality of the state's rivers and streams
- Increase scrutiny of mountaintop and river stone mining
- Examine forestry issues from the standpoint of water-supply impacts
- Address logging and chipping as one process in NPDES storm-water permits

Environmental Priorities: Air

- Improve the state's role in greenhouse gas emissions
- Monitor TVA to ensure they stay on schedule for NOx - maintain a focus on power plants: monitor and maintain hold on merchant plants
- Achieve better air quality for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Other

- Continue oversight of the Oak Ridge Reservation
- Improve public participation in general, and better diversity of citizen and environmental participation on the environmental boards
- Pass OHV program legislation

Administration/Management Priorities

- Develop new policy direction to more aggressively address the remaining polluted waters of the state
- Provide stronger environmental emphasis/considerations in policy by the departments of Economic Development, Agriculture, and Transportation (particularly impacts to streams)
- Change the management structure and policies of the Tennessee State Parks: more emphasis on natural conservation and less on resort develop-

ment; stable funding sources; potentially a "commission style" management structure

- Transfer the Forestry Division out of the Department of Agriculture
- Resolve tax issues to protect the environmental protection fund and to achieve stable state parks funding
- Require a park director with professional experience, credentials and training running state parks

Contact: Dodd Galbreath (615) 532-8545

4. SMOKIES: MUCH GOING ON

A. Rep. Taylor to head Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

The Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, which funds parks, forests, energy and environmental activities of the federal government, will be headed by Rep. Charles Taylor (R, NC) in the new, 108th, Congress. This is the same Rep. Taylor who has been pushing construction of the North Shore Road (NL243 §5A, NL247 §6A, and §5C, this NL) and the Ravensford land swap (NL243 §5B, NL248 §3A). His chief of staff is quoted as saying: "You can assume the fact he is chairman of the Interior Appropriation Subcommittee does not change his position on these [issues]."

B. Superintendent flap gives further evidence of NPS politicization

Former Smokies Assistant Superintendent David Mihalic, who most recently served as Superintendent at Yosemite and was regarded as a rising star in NPS, was tapped to return to the Smokies as Superintendent. However, he chose to retire rather than to submit to Administration pressure to push two projects -- the North Shore Road and the Ravensford land swap -- that NPS had previously opposed on eminently sound grounds (NL248 §3D).

An article from the *New York Times* (12/10/02) supplies additional information. "I got a clear charge from the [NPS] deputy director to make it happen," Mr. Mihalic said of his conversation with Mr. Jones about the land swap. "His exact words were, 'Get it done.'" When Mr. Mihalic refused the Great Smoky assignment and asked for another, he said, he was told there would be none. When he asked for a meeting with Fran P. Mainella, the Park Service director, he was told there was no time on her schedule, he said. Finally, when he submitted his retirement

papers, they were accepted without a word of regret from his superiors.

Phil Francis is Acting Superintendent

C. North Shore Road status

NPS may hold its first public meeting on the North Shore Road issue some time in February. It has contracted with Arcadis to produce an EIS in 28 months. Reportedly, the following alternatives will be considered: completing the entire 37 miles to parkway standards, building a gravel road, completing a short segment with some visitor facility at the end, or doing nothing.

According to one estimate, the sentiment in Swain County for taking a \$40 million cash settlement vs. completing the North Shore Road now runs 3:1. The big question is whether a cash-settlement bill can move, now that NC Rep. Charles Taylor, a strong proponent of the road, has become chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee (§5A, above). Taylor has shown no inclination to meet with members of the Citizens for the Economic Future of Swain County (CEFSC), chaired by Swain County attorney Luke Hyde (NL 247, §6A), which now has about 250 members, mostly in the county. Similarly, NC's new Republican Senator, Elizabeth Dole, has been unresponsive to CEFSC. Because of what thus appears to be the fixed orientation of the local politicians, the cash settlement in lieu of the road will have to be made a national issue, and Congressional champion(s) will have to be found to sponsor and move a bill. An obvious argument in favor of such legislation is that a lump sum of \$40 million would be an immediate significant benefit to this poor county and would be considerably less costly to the U.S. taxpayer than paying a maximum of \$150 million for constructing a destructive road (on top of the \$16 million already appropriated, which will go to pay for the NEPA study). The road would destroy the largest roadless area of mountain terrain east of the Mississippi, an area of beautiful vistas, lovely trails and important wildlife.

D. Elkmont plan in urgent need of input from us

NPS has scheduled a second public workshop on the fate of the Elkmont structures for February 1 (see Actionbox, below, for location). It is vital for many of us to become involved because, at the September 28 public workshop, 50 of the 53 people who attended advocated that all Elkmont structures be completely rehabilitated and rented out as a concession (NL245 §5B; NL248 §3C).

The NPS study team has refined initial alternatives and will present six, ranging from No Action, which reflects the General Management Plan (Alternative A), through restoration of almost all cabins, the Wonderland Hotel plus Annex and the Appalachian Clubhouse, with overnight lodging and dining being provided to the general public (Alternative E). To read more about the 6 alternatives, visit the NPS web site <http://www.elkmont-gmpa-ea.com/>. Following the February 1 meeting, a final set of alternatives will be carried forward into the Impact Analysis, when a recommended alternative gets to be formulated.

It is inappropriate for any section of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to become an enclave for rental properties, with concessionaires that service them. Park policy was established years ago when the federal government purchased the properties in Elkmont. The park required that all previous owners move out of Elkmont upon expiration of a life-lease. It is unacceptable for the park to back-slide on this policy and allow new leases in Elkmont. If a selected small number of cabins is to be preserved and rehabilitated for use as exhibits, absolutely no one must be permitted to stay overnight in them, and there must be absolutely no commercial concessions in the Elkmont area.

In addition to making these basic arguments, consider incorporating some of the following points into your comments.

- The natural and archeological resources in the Elkmont area must be protected.
- The quality of Little River must be maintained for swimmers, paddlers, hikers and wildlife. Little River is an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW). In ONRW waters no new discharges or expansions of existing discharges that will degrade the water quality are permitted.
- The very rare and endangered montane alluvial flood plain must be conserved.
- The habitat of the fascinating synchronous fireflies must not be diminished.
- The American Indian and early Euro-American archeological artifacts must be preserved.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Attend the workshop Saturday, February 1, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the LeConte Auditorium at the Sevierville Civic Center, 130 Gary R. Wade Boulevard, Sevierville, TN, 37862, located just off US-411. If you are unable to attend the Feb. 1 meeting, please send comments to Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738; e-

mail ElkmontComments@tnaipc.com, or phone 865-436-1227. For additional information, contact Greg Kidd at gkidd@npca.org.

E. Cades Cove Planning

The next public meeting on the Cades Cove Opportunity Plan will be sometime in May (please look for an announcement and plan to attend). Participants in the December meeting of the Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition recognized that if the Cades Cove transportation problem can be solved, most of the other issues will fall into place. A public-transportation alternative was consequently developed for submission to the study team.

This well-thought-out alternative, backed by numerous facts, recommends that a public-transportation system in the loop be mandatory and operate year round. It suggests that this system could be paid for by a fee per vehicle parked at the terminal (the ride around the loop would be free). In the coalition plan, various exceptions are considered (relatives visiting graves or ancestral sites, horse trailers en route to equestrian trail heads) and special problems are addressed. Persons riding road bicycles would have access to the loop at all times.

5. THE CHEROKEE AND OTHER NATIONAL FORESTS

A. Legality of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule is reinstated

A late Clinton-era measure, the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, banned most road building and logging in almost 60 million acres – the remaining undeveloped portions of the 191-million-acre National Forest System. No sooner was the Rule promulgated than Boise Cascade and the state of Idaho challenged its legality early in 2001, and the court issued an injunction against implementing it. The Bush Administration's Justice Department refused to appeal this injunction (though it was leveled at a US government measure), but several conservation groups, led by Earth Justice, did.

On December 12, 2002, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the legality of the Rule. It is now the law of the land. Earth Justice's analysis: "Many legal challenges to protecting our last wild forests are still in play. But for today, a victory!" The rule was developed following unprecedented citizen involvement, with some 1.6 million comments (almost all in favor) and 600 public meetings.

B. Alternative is removed from Forest Management Plans

The Southern Appalachian National Forests, including the Cherokee, are completing the revisions of their management plans, which will determine directions for the next 15 years. During this process, the USFS Regional Office in Atlanta removed from consideration the only alternative (Alternative C) that would have limited commercial logging in these national forests. In addition, the Bush Administration is proposing rule changes that would exempt these plans from appeal and make many timber sales exempt from public review (this is part of their anti-NEPA initiative – see ¶7C, this NL).

In the Southern Appalachian National Forests we have a chance to protect the last of the region's critical forest and wildlife habitat. These forests, moreover encompass critical watersheds for millions of Americans (see 5D, below).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell the Forest Service that you want to see a "no commercial logging" alternative fully and fairly evaluated in the forest plan revision process, and that you want to weaken the review and appeals processes. Address: Bob Jones, Regional Forester, Southern Region, US Forest Service, 1720 Peachtree Rd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30309.

C. Forest Fires do not justify weakening of NEPA

Capitalizing on the understandable public concern about forest fires that was engendered by the experience of 2002, the Bush Administration is attempting a major weakening of NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act (see also ¶7C, this NL). The White House has proposed exempting 10 large fire-reduction projects in federal forests from NEPA, projects that are an excuse for large, unjustifiable timber harvests.

Here are some of the facts. Only 17% of the fires that started in 2002 were on federal land. Over the past decade, only 20% of the acres that have burned as a result of wildfires have been on national forest land. Most of the acreage has been on state land, tribal land, and private land. The problem is thus not primarily a US Forest Service problem, and there is no justification for throwing open the entire US Forest System to logging without laws. Further, the big trees that would be primarily logged, deep in the interior of the forests do not constitute much of a forest-fire danger.

Of considerable interest is the so-called Western Governors Association Plan, a big collaborative effort put together over the past two years by a broad-based group of stakeholders, including the Western Governors Association, the Timber Association, the Cattlemen's Association, and some conservation groups. The plan specifically states that there is no need to change existing environmental laws to accomplish what needs to be done to protect communities from forest fires. The Bush proposal would undermine our basic bedrock of environmental protection without protecting western communities from wildfire.

D. The forgotten Forest Product: Water

That's the title of a *New York Times* article (1/3/03) by Mike Dombeck, under whose leadership during the Clinton Administration the Forest Service developed and promulgated the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (see also ¶5A, above). Water is perhaps the most important forest product. Of all precipitation (rain, snow) runoff in the 48 contiguous states, two-thirds are provided by forests. Some 14% of all runoff comes from the roughly 190 million acres of national forests, which take up only 8% of the land. More than 60,000,000 people rely on national forests for their drinking water.

Mature forests, with their complex array of trees, shrubs, ground covers, and roots act to slow runoff from precipitation, and water is purified as it percolates through the soil into aquifers. These forests not only purify water, but they minimize floods and erosion, reducing the sediment entering streams. By virtue of these many forest actions, water from our national forests has an economic value of \$3.7 billion a year. Yet water rarely surfaces as a forest-management issue. (A good example of the economic value of forest-derived water is New York City, which has some of the best water in the world because it comes from several watersheds in which healthy forests are maintained. If it failed to protect these watersheds, the city would have to pay more than \$6 billion on a purification plant.)

Given the Nation's water-supply problems, our focus should be on how to let our forests do their job of producing excellent water. That should be the highest priority in forest management.

6. OAK RIDGE ISSUES

A. DOE agree to conservation easement on 3,040 acres of ORR

[Contributed by Dev Jostin]

On December 20, 2002, DOE signed an "Agreement in Principal" with the State of Tennessee to place 3,040 acres on the western end of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) under a conservation easement, to be managed by the State of Tennessee. This land is the largest block of continuous forest on the reservation, and encompasses virtually all of east and west Black Oak Ridge and McKinney Ridge. The area contains a number of state-threatened plant species and is a major breeding ground for two dozen migratory bird species of conservation concern" according to Partners in Flight, as well as being home to numerous species of mammals, fish, and other vertebrates. It also contains the six-mile "North Boundary Trail," an Oak Ridge city greenway, and it abuts East Fork Poplar Creek in many places. Black Oak Ridge lies behind both Horizon Center [ED-1] to the east and Heritage Center [formerly K-25], while McKinney Ridge straddles the two. The agreement is for an "indefinite period," as close as possible to a permanent agreement in legal language.

The agreement resulted from negotiations between DOE and the state as part of the Natural Resources Damages Assessment (NRDA) and provides this partial compensation to the people of Tennessee for past pollution damages by DOE to Watts Bar Lake. The selection by the NRDA board of these particular acres is a direct result of the Focus Group Report -- one outcome of the ORR Land Use Planning process that AFORR, TCWP, Tenn. Conservation League, TWRA, TNC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and many local citizens have worked hard for years to bring about. That report -- a product of a year of monthly meetings among 20 stakeholders, as well as several open public meetings -- strongly recommended that these particular acres be preserved in perpetuity for conservation, research, and recreation.

In his speech at the dedication ceremony for the 3,040-acre conservation easement, Congressman Zach Wamp strongly emphasized the need for DOE to continue the land-use planning process for the entire Oak Ridge Reservation. He also emphasized the past success and future importance of including public input as a key part of that process. This is certainly an approach that deserves our strong support if properly implemented. Continuing to keep an effective and open planning process for the whole ORR is a key to achieving the best solutions. There are still sev-

eral major portions of the ORR whose future is uncertain (including the current 3,000-acre Three Bends Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge Area, which was designated for only 5 years, of which 3 1/2 are now up).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Representative Wamp and thank him for his support in this conservation action. Contact Rep. Wamp and the new Oak Ridge Operations Manager, Gerald Boyd, to express the need to proceed rapidly with a similar open and public planning process for the remainder of the ORR reservation. The Honorable Zach Wamp, 2447 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-4203, (202) 225-3271; FAX (202) 225-3494. Gerald Boyd, Manager, Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8700.

B. Cedar Barrens Plan formulated

In the late 1980s, a strong citizen effort, led by TCWP, saved the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens (behind Jefferson Middle School) from being sold to Crown American for mall development. In 1988, the 6- to 8-acre area was preserved as a registered State Natural Area by agreement between the Tennessee Department of Conservation (now, TDEC), TCWP, and the City of Oak Ridge. The State and TCWP "agree to manage the described land in a manner which will perpetuate or enhance the cedar barrens conditions..."

Tom Thomas, TCWP's former North Ridge Trail Steward, has formulated an excellent Cedar Barrens management plan, which has been reviewed by Maureen Cunningham, Lee Russell, Larry Pounds, and Wes James, and approved by the Board. As part of the Plan, a TCWP member will be appointed as site steward who, with the help of volunteers, will carry out actions suggested in the Plan and will work with state and city officials to secure funding and resources and provide legal protection for the site. Volunteers for site manager are solicited in #8A, this NL.

C. A TDoT project will disfigure Oak Ridge

Did you know that the Tennessee Dept. of Transportation is planning to cut down the long row of beautiful big maple trees on the Turnpike below the Garden Apartments in order to widen the roadway? According to information from inky (in *The Oak Ridge* of 12/27/02), you can call Clifford Steward, who heads the TDoT design team for this project, at 615-741-4726. Also call Luane Grandinetti at the TDoT Public In-



formation Office (615-741-2331), who will route your concern to the appropriate staff member(s). It seems, the City of Oak Ridge (Public Works Director, Gary Cinder) has expressed its concern for these trees on several occasions over the past few years.

7. NATIONAL ISSUES

A. New Senate Committee chairmen - an ominous prospect

With the slim majority gained by the Republicans in the Senate, the chairmanship of all committees has changed. The new chairmen of the committees that most affect environmental legislation have a frighteningly anti-environmental record. The following is the lineup compiled by the League of Conservation Voters, along with LCV lifetime scores

Committee	New Chair	Score
Environment	Inhofe (OK)	0%
Agriculture	Cochran (MS)	9%
Budget	Nickles (OK)	10%
Energy/Natural Resources	Domenici (NM)	15%
Appropriations	Stevens (AK)	14%
Approp, Interior subcomm.	Burns (MT)	5%

The average score is 9%. By contrast, the average score of the chairmen they are replacing is 70%! As stated by Elizabeth Kolbert in a recent *The New Yorker*, "there has probably never been a greater government consensus on, or perhaps one should say against, the environment." Yet, in polls, 81% of Americans support strong efforts to protect our environment.

B. Ferocious attacks on Endangered Species Act

Before retiring at the end of 2001, House Resources Chairman Hansen (R-UT) introduced an ESA "reform" bill (HR 5709) that would exempt private property, military land, and all plant life from the provisions of the Act. Hansen said: "After working with this law during my 22 years in Congress, I've concluded it's the most powerful law in the land. It can be used to thwart everything ... Right now in this country, the rights of an endangered fly take precedence over national security, commerce and many people's right to the enjoyment of property ..." His objective in introducing the bill before he retired was "giving my colleagues something they can act on swiftly in the next Congress." [Note that the bill will have a new sponsor(s) and number in this new Congress.]

Now that pertinent committees in both House are chaired by anti-environmentalists (see ¶7A, above), it is quite evident that the Endangered Species Act will be under ferocious and sustained attack. The citizens represented by the Endangered Species Coalition (ESC) will have their work cut out keeping assaults on this essential law from succeeding. We must support the ESC and respond to their action alerts.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Urge your Congressman to oppose Hansen's ESA "reform" bill or its equivalent.
- (2) It costs about \$30,000 a month to keep the ESC's crack staff of nine organizers and communicators functioning. You can help by going to the ESC home page <http://www.stopextinction.org> and click on "Join as a Member Today." This will allow you to receive ESC communication, and to contribute to the Coalition's costs.

C. Administration aims to cripple NEPA

NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act is the bedrock statute that assures citizens of two things: that federal agencies will carefully analyze the impacts of their proposed actions along with a range of alternatives; and that citizens will have the opportunity to be involved and to comment on those analyses and choices. NEPA requires federal agencies to produce environmental impact statements (EISs) for projects they undertake, fund, or issue permits for. NEPA also requires agencies to hold public hearings on projects, and to consider alternatives to the proposed projects. It is a critical avenue for public input on the management of public lands.

Drastic dilution, or better yet, the demise of NEPA is a long-held dream of natural-resource industries, and the Bush Administration is out to fulfill this dream. The attempts to cripple NEPA are rationalized by objectives such as "cutting bureaucratic red tape" and "avoiding analysis paralysis." The NEPA-crippling objectives have surfaced primarily in conjunction with fire-reduction projects in federal forests (see ¶5C, this NL), with Forest Service Management Plans (¶5B, this NL), and with attempts to exempt new oil and gas exploration projects on federal lands. They also appear in transportation bills (¶7F, below).

The record shows that NEPA does not prevent beneficial, well-thought-out projects. Citizens who appeal or litigate proposed actions do not prevail unless their arguments have merit.

D. New danger for Arctic Refuge

Senator Domenici, the incoming chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has a dangerous plan for the Arctic Refuge. He supports including language that will permit drilling in a filibuster-proof budget reconciliation process.

E. Wetlands protection is weakened

Wetlands destruction contributes to flooding, topsoil runoff into streams, and to loss of vital habitat for aquatic species, migrating birds, and other wildlife. A major feature of our Clean Water Act has been to minimize the destruction of wetlands by developments, and to mitigate a loss when it does occur (i.e., to create another wetland of at least equal size).

Basing its reasoning on a 1991 Supreme Court case, the Administration has now issued guidelines to instruct federal regulators (Corps of Engineers, EPA) to "withhold clean water protection from isolated wetlands and to seek guidance from headquarters in determining whether to protect other small intrastate streams and waterways that currently enjoy federal protection." This shifts responsibility to the states for protecting up to 20% of the 100 million acres of wetlands in the lower 48. Many states lack sufficient budgets to fund comprehensive permit-review and enforcement programs equivalent to the federal system. In Tennessee, the underfunded Aquatic Resources Alteration Program (ARAP) will need to cover most of the wetlands and water bodies no longer covered by federal policy.

Another Bush-Administration change in wetlands policy affects mitigation. This will now focus on the quality of new wetlands being created rather than on maintaining total wetlands acreage. While attention to quality is a laudable goal, the policy is very vague and leaves the door open to practices that have contributed to wetlands losses. In view of past experience, up to 80% of mitigation projects will never become fully functioning wetlands. Therefore, an acre "mitigated" for an acre destroyed needs to be an absolute minimum. Until now, the ratio has been 2:1, 3:1, 4:1, or even higher, depending on distance and ecological significance.

F. Dangerous transportation bills

Under two past Transportation Acts, ISTEA (enacted 1991) and TEA-21 (1998), a portion of federal gasoline tax revenues was appropriated for land-use planning, scenic byways, trails, scenic easements, billboard removal, etc. TEA-21 expires in September 2003 and must be renewed.

Several bills have, however, been introduced that would accomplish the opposite.

The worst of these is the Transportation Empowerment Act, which has been characterized as a "pavement only" bill. It would terminate programs instituted under ISTEA and TEA-21 and strip funding for mass transport (its number was S.2861 in the last Congress, but it'll have a different number when reintroduced). Then there are two bills, that incorporate the Bush Administration's theme of weakening NEPA (§7C, this NL). Both would dramatically decrease the amount of time available for public comment and for challenge to proposed transportation projects, and would reduce citizen participation in other ways as well. Projects could proceed without considering a range of other alternatives. The acronyms for these bills are EXPDITE (was HR.5455) and MEGA Stream (was S.3031).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Senators and Representative to oppose the Transportation Empowerment Act, EXPDITE and MEGA Stream. These bills would rob citizens of their ability to have a say on projects that could drastically reshape their communities and surroundings.

G. Administration pretending to address global warming

A short while ago, the President announced a new 5-year program of research into the possible causes of global warming. Never mind that there is already a ~20-years' body of research on the subject, virtually all of it pointing to the urgent need to adopt exactly the kind of remedial steps that the Bush Administration refuses to take. Bush says we can adapt to global warming. As long as the rules favor dirtier and more profitable alternatives (e.g., not adding pollution equipment to upgraded aging power plants; gas-guzzling SUVs), industry will not voluntarily invest in measures to reduce greenhouse gases.

The Union of Concerned Scientists notes that the national administration is out of step with the country. The Conference of Mayors has called on cities to reduce CO₂ emissions, and several states have passed strong bills limiting power-plant and/or vehicle emissions. Moreover, 78% of voters (a huge increase from 10 years ago) believe that global warming is, or will soon be, a serious problem, and think that doing nothing (the adapt-to-the-inevitable approach) is irresponsible and short-sighted, especially when the technology exists to do something positive.

B. TCWP NEWS

A. Volunteers needed

for Cedar Barrens stewardship

As described in ¶6B, this NL, TCWP has an obligation to manage and preserve the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens. For this purpose, we need a Site Steward who will organize a number of other volunteers to perform several tasks outlined in a report that was recently approved by the Board.

Among actions to be performed (see also ¶6B) are protection of the rare cedar barrens vegetation by elimination of encroaching other species; marking firm boundaries; installation of signs; keeping a record of actions and collecting archives; and possibly developing an educational flyer and/or information package on the Barrens. Some additional action are also suggested, as volunteer time permits.

If you can volunteer either as the Site Manager or as his/her occasional helper, please contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com, or Cindy Kendrick, 865-938-3559, okendrickcindy@home.com.

B. Upcoming activities

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The following activities have been arranged by TCWP's Service Committee. For more information, contact Sandra K. Goss at 865-522-3809 or skgoss@esper.com.

February 11, Talk on Friends of the Smokies. Jim Hart, Executive Director for Friends of the Smokies, will speak on the needs of the Smokies. By the end of 2003, some \$10 million will have been raised to benefit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Hart is the second executive director in the history of the 10-year-old Friends group and has been in this job for 8 months. A Knoxville native, he was in the broadcasting business for 35 years. His father founded Channel 10, where Hart began his career. Following stints with MultiMedia and Scripps Howard, Hart retired.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center. Refreshments after the talk.

February 23, Freels Bend Hike. Freels Bend on the Oak Ridge Reservation is part of TWRA's Three Bends Management Area. On this short hike, led by Larry Pounds, we will see the historic Freels

Bend Log Cabin, an interesting cave entrance, perhaps tiger salamanders and/or tiger salamander eggs, and undoubtedly some birds of interest.

We will meet in the parking lot of the American Museum of Science and Energy at 2 p.m. and caravan from there. We may divide into groups based on interests. The amount of walking will depend on the weather and interest. Hikers should wear sturdy shoes and bring warm clothing. In the event of iffy weather, call Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, to confirm that the hike is still scheduled.

9. CALENDAR; PUBLICATIONS; RESOURCES

Events and deadlines calendar (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, skgoss@esper.com).

- February 1, 10-3, Sevierville, Workshop #2 on Elkmont alternatives (¶4D).
- February 1, 9-6, near Canton, NC, Sixth Annual Grassroots Conference. Advocacy workshops on how we can influence management of our southeastern forests; also, hikes and activities. Sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition (828-252-9223; safc@safc.org).
- February 3, deadline for comments on largest ripine in Royal Blue WMA (¶2A).
- February 8 and 15, TdoT Reform Coalition meetings in Memphis and Knoxville, respectively (¶2B).
- February 11, Oak Ridge, 7 p.m., Speaker on Gt. Smoky Mtn. NP at TCWP quarterly meeting (¶88).
- February 23, Oak Ridge, 2 p.m., Freels Bend TCWP hike and nature study (¶88).
- April 21-27, Smoky Mtns. NP Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, a week of nature walks, hikes, art classes, flower identification walks, birding trips, photographic tours, and lectures. A brochure will be out soon. In the meantime, check www.wildflowerpilgrimage.org.
- May 17, Obed Cleanup Day (¶1D).

Publications

- Notes on the Birds of the Big South Fork NRR and Obed National WSR, by Stephen J. and Barbara H. Stedman, is a wonderful little volume (146 pp.) that not only provides thoroughly re-

searched and well-organized data on 170 species of birds but contains a wealth of other information as well. Included are extensive gazetteers (with maps) for both parks that describe trails and driver segments (it is the only publication now available that tells how to locate the trail heads in the Obed WSR), items such as physiography and climate, and an important discussion of threats to the birds in both parks (and, as the authors point out, birds are a form of biological litmus test to determine the health of ecosystems).

This book, printed by Tenn. Tech Univ., Cookeville, and published in 2002, is available from Juanita's Gift Shop, Wartburg, and from several stores in Oneida and Cookeville. It will soon be stocked by the Visitor Centers at Obed WSR and Big South Fork NRRRA. Get it!

- *Greenspeak: Fifty Years of Environmental Muck-raking and Advocacy* is a collection of addresses made by Michael Frome from 1963 to 2001. These speeches offer insight into virtually every major conservation issue and provide revealing close-ups of key events and personalities, so that the struggles of earlier environmentalists shall not be forgotten. Frome has written context-setting introductions for these talks. He makes a strong case for advocacy journalism, instead of the current passionless "objectivity." (\$21.95 + \$4.50 S&H, from University of Tennessee Press, c/o Chicago Distribution Center, 11030 South Langley Ave., Chicago, IL 60628.)

Web sites and other resources

- The completed Tellico Scoping Document, with new information on Rarity Pointe Commercial Recreation and Residential Development, Tellico Reservoir, may be referenced at the website <http://www.tn.gov/environment/reports/Tellico2/scoping.htm>
- The Hot List, which is an attributed source of information for some of the items in this NL, can be read on the TDEC website at <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/epo/hotlist.htm>
- "Weird Science," prepared by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Resources. At her Senate confirmation hearings as Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton said: "I am absolutely committed to the idea that the decision-making should be based on the best science, on the best analysis of environmental issues that we can find." This report examines the record of the Department under Norton, and the administrative ac-

tions to selectively choose, manipulate, and politicize science. (Request report from the Hon. Nick Rahall, Ranking Member, Committee on Resources, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.)

- The White House has an "opinion" line that accepts calls from 9-5 EST, Monday thru Friday. When you call 202-456-1111, a machine detain you about a minute, after which a pleasant live operator thanks you for saying "I oppose" or "I approve."
- To review an excellent recent report on the state of the nation's ecosystems go to <http://www.epa.gov/ecosystems>
- "Estimating the Public Health Benefits of Proposed Air Pollution Regulations" <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10511.html>
- "Health and the Environment in the Southeastern United States -- Rebuilding Unity" Workshop Summary <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10535.html>

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