



Taking Care of Wild Places

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## 11. ACTION SUMMARY

#	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Mussels in Big South Fork	NPS, by Nov.12	Send comments supporting Preferred Alternative (#3)
1B	Obed land acquisition funds	Sens. Frist & Alexander	"Support appropriations for Obed and other Tenn. acquisitions!"
2E	Forestry legislation for Tenn	Forestry Comm., by Nov.3	"We need mandatory BMPs and other protective laws!"
2F	Environmental damage by logging	ForestWatch	Report any logging damages you have seen
3A	Mountain-top removal	Gov. Bredesen	"Do not allow this type of mining in Tennessee!"
4A	Ravensford land exchange	Sen. Frist, Alexander, Edwards	"HR. 1409 must not be attached to appropriations bill!"
4B	North Shore Road, Smokies	USDI Sec. Norton	"Head Sen. Alexander: cash settlement in lieu of road!"
6B	TVA and air quality	Sen. Frist: TVA Board	"Clear Skies" fails to protect Smokies and our lungs!"
7C,D	Lands in Oak Ridge Reservation	City Council and Manager	"We value preservation of ORR lands as open space!"
8B	Fires and logging in national forests	US Senators	"The 'Healthy Forest Initiative' is a sham; oppose it!"

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  
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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  
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Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252)

Rep. Zach Wamp:  
Phone: 202-225-3271  
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Local: 865-576-1976  
Web: [www.house.gov/wamp](http://www.house.gov/wamp)

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.hcv.org>  
Note that mail to Congress is still slow following the anthrax scare. Consider faxing and 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 Tabot Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

President: Cindy Kendrick, 865-386-6382 (h).

Executive and Membership-Development Director: Sandra Goss, 865-522-3809; [SKGoss@esper.com](mailto:SKGoss@esper.com)

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

# 1. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

## A. Revised mussel plan needs our comments

A year ago, the National Park Service (NPS) released an Environmental Assessment (EA) of its plan for the management of mussels in the Big South Fork and for reintroduction of extirpated species (NL247 ¶2B). Comments subsequently received from the Tennessee Oil and Gas Association (TOGA) about how the plan might impact their industry, caused NPS to recall the EA for further review.

Draft of the revised EA has now been released. The agency's preferred alternative remains as in the original: to augment existing mussel populations, reintroduce extirpated species, and monitor progress of the project. The modification consists of more extensive analysis of the potential impacts to extractive industries and development. It will be important for us to voice support for NPS's preferred alternative (Alternative 3).

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Support Alternative 3. The deadline for receipt of comments is November 12. Send them to [BJSO.Superintendent@NPS.GOV](mailto:BJSO.Superintendent@NPS.GOV) or mail to Superintendent, Big South Fork NRR A, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida, TN 37841. A copy of the draft EA can be downloaded from [www.nps.gov/biso](http://www.nps.gov/biso), or call 423-5699778.

## B. Obed land-acquisition funds still in the balance

Congress has not yet completed work on the Interior Appropriations bill, and many funding items (especially those for land acquisition) have been badly cut in conference committee (NL252 ¶7C). As reported earlier (NL252 ¶1A), only the Senate version of the bill contains the \$1,569,000 item for purchase of 700 of the 1,231 acres that are still privately owned within the boundary of the Obed WSR. (The remaining 531 acres represent tracts for which owners have not to date expressed their willingness to sell; they would cost an additional ~\$900,000). Both Rep. Wamp and Senator Alexander had earlier assured us of their support in conference committee. Subsequently, Sen. Frist wrote "As the appropriations process moves forward I will continue to express my support for this project." Hopefully, his position as Senate Majority Leader will lend extra weight to his support.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** In the latest stages of Congressional work on the Interior Appropriations bill, Senators Frist and Alexander and your Congressman should hear of your support for the Obed and other Tennessee items (NL252 ¶2B). See p.2 for contact info.

## C. "Experience Your Obed (EYO)" sessions successful

The three EYO field trips in September successfully illustrated a variety of Park missions and recreation opportunities for the Obed Wild & Scenic River. They were held, successively, at Lilly Bluff, Nemo, and Potter Ford, and they included demonstrations of water-quality sampling (aquatic organisms, pH), taking census of fish and mussel populations (snorkeling, electric stunning), and equipment and techniques used in white water sport and climbing. Agency staff presented informative talks pertaining to the various demonstrated efforts as well as to other activities (such as control of exotic plants). The field trips also provided a fine opportunity to meet a large number of participating agency personnel (NPS, TWRA, TDEC). Several TCWP members participated in the field trips, and a few local political and civic leaders attended. We hope the EYO project will be a continuing one.

## D. Obed manager starts on the job

Philip Campbell, the new Obed Wild and Scenic River Unit Manager, has now been on the job for several weeks and has made himself readily accessible. He participated in the EYO sessions (¶1C, above), and he attended the TCWP Annual Meeting on Oct. 11, as well as a Sierra Club program about the Obed a few days later. He and his family hope to live in Oak Ridge to avail themselves of the excellent school system.

## E. Big South Fork NRR license plate proposed

Friends of the Big South Fork is proposing a new Big South Fork NRR license plate that would raise funds for Park projects. A kick-off event was held at the home of Senator Baker in Huntsville in August for the purpose of collecting signatures in support of such a license plate (the state requires a minimum number of presumptive "takers" before they'll issue a new type of license plate).

The "Friends" group, formed in 1995, has undertaken several projects, such as construction of a log dorm for seasonal and volunteer workers, participating in a number of clean-up activities, and

encouraging donations to the Park. If you would be interested in a BSNRRA license plate, contact Friends of Big South Fork, POBox 5407, Oneida, TN 37841, or call 423-569-1599.

## 2. AROUND THE STATE

### A. New directions for State Parks

Several new directions for the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC) were outlined by Jim Fyke in his talk at the TCWP Annual Meeting on October 11. Fyke joined Gov. Bredesen's administration in April as TDEC's Deputy Commissioner for Conservation and State Parks (another Deputy Commissioner, Karen Stakowski, handles TDEC's "Environment" side). He had previously served with the Metro Nashville Board of Parks & Recreation.

Fyke reported that the uneven attention previously paid to the 6 resort parks, on the one hand, and the remaining non-resort parks, on the other, has ended; all state parks will be treated the same in a seamless system. Existing resources will be reallocated. A different name will be found for "resort" parks to downplay the visitor expectation of luxury, and these parks will be made more self-sustaining. The former manager of the restaurant at Cumberland Mountain State Park will be in charge. A marketing program to be launched next spring will emphasize the beauty, natural values, and uniqueness of Tennessee's parks, instead of the golf courses and marinas. A goal will be to get people (primarily Tennesseans) back into their parks.

He also addressed staffing policies, stressing that the State Park System has a huge number of dedicated employees working for virtually nothing. Career-service status had been taken from these employees; it is now being restored. The system will be professional, not political. Other specific changes:

- Charlie Tate is heading the natural and cultural program division and will be heavily involved in planning, reporting directly to Fyke.
- The new director of State Parks Operations is a 20-year state parks veteran, formerly at Radnor Lake Natural Area.
- The head of the Educational-Recreational Services Division will act as state coordinator for the various parks "friends" groups.
- For the 53 parks, there will be three Regional Managers, instead of just one.

Fyke mentioned that when Governor Bredesen was growing up, he had wanted to be a park ranger. During Bredesen's tenure as Mayor,

Nashville experienced the greatest addition of open land in its history.

### B. New directions for TDOt

Tennessee's new Commissioner of Transportation, Gerald Nicely, has created a new structure in TDOt, according to Ed Cole, who spoke at the TCWP Annual Meeting. Originally, there were the construction people and the administrators. Commissioner Nicely added a third pillar - planning, and Ed Cole is in charge of that, as Chief of Environment and Planning. His program will evaluate transportation needs from the point of view of infrastructure and the environment; the philosophy is to enhance, and not just protect. His Division is about to embark on a 25-year comprehensive multi-modal transportation plan, which is scheduled to be complete by 2005. Its goals and values will be determined after extensive public participation. Among many issues is the use of transportation-mitigation funds (to compensate for the lands consumed by roads and rights-of-way); some other states, e.g., N, use such funds for acquisition of open-space public lands.

An evaluation of 15 controversial road projects is under way by TDOt, including the Knoxville Beltway, the Pellissippi Parkway extension, US 127 North and South of Crossville, and Highway 321 between Gatlinburg and Cosby. A comprehensive independent study, now complete, was conducted by the UT Center for Transportation Research, under its Executive Director, Dr. Stephen Richards. Through a series of "Listening Sessions" and other means, the researchers collected information from citizens, communities, city planners, and government officials about how the fifteen projects (which would cost more than a billion dollars) were determined as necessary in the first place. UT researchers also reviewed project alternatives and the extent to which citizen input had taken place during the project-planning process.

The UT Center for Transportation Research was charged, notwithstanding making decisions about the future of the projects, but with the mission of providing an assessment upon which the TDOt could base its decisions. Findings were turned over to Commissioner Nicely, who formed Project Review Teams within TDOt to examine the results of the study. Decisions will be made project by project in the very near future; some are being announced as we go to press.

The Tennessee Road Builders Association, an industry lobbying group that makes large donations to political candidates, recently reacted

violently and intemperately to TDoT's new directions. In an article, the executive director referred to the opponents of road projects as "small but vocal groups of local citizens ... or traveling hordes of anti-everything, build-nothing extremists ... with the same old song and dance about muddy water and supposedly critical 'nowhere else, anywhere on earth' habitat for this or that bug or bunny."

### C. Status of oil & gas regulations

In mid-August, TCWP joined the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN), and the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) in a letter to Commissioner Betsy Child expressing concern that State activities directed toward revised oil & gas regulations might be falling short of an open public process. Following the July 2002 oil spill in the Obed system's Clear Creek, which had focused public attention on the inadequacy of Tennessee's laws and regulations, the State announced interim policy measures (which were implemented in October 2002) and initiated a public process for reviewing the program. An Oil and Gas Study Committee, consisting of state staff, developed a set of recommendations on the basis of input received from a variety of constituencies.

The conservation community was generally supportive of these recommendations when they were released in January 2003. However, little action has occurred subsequently, and there is a growing concern that what had been an effective, collaborative process may have become a quiet process between the state and the regulated community (the Tennessee Oil & Gas Association, TOGA). The joint TCWN/TCWP/NPCA letter sent in August requested that any discussions regarding rule revision be conducted through an appropriate public process.

The Division of Geology responded, stating that, after the recommendations of the Oil and Gas Study Committee had been released in January, only one meeting had taken place between the State and TOGA to discuss regulatory changes. The interim policy measures implemented in October of 2002 will remain in effect until a public rulemaking hearing takes place and the necessary changes are formally adopted. Such a hearing will be announced before the end of this calendar year.

### D. Water-quality standards finally approved

The long struggle to get the Water Quality Control Board (WQCB) to approve effective anti-degradation rules recommended by the profes-

sional staff (NL251 ¶3A, NL252 ¶2A) has finally ended in an acceptable compromise. The WQCB initially met on July 22 to consider the revised water-quality rules, but after hearing opposing testimonies it decided to delay its vote on the full package. The Board did accept everything except the controversial anti-degradation provision. This provision, 1200-4-3.06(8), required a thorough review, including active public participation, of pollution-prevention alternatives whenever a permit for a new or expanded discharge is requested for a high-quality water.

In delaying its vote, the WQCB requested that environmental advocates and industry representatives try to reach an agreement amongst themselves over the key features of the anti-degradation provision.

On September 24, the Tennessee Clean Water Network's (TCWN's) Kim Campbell reported the final outcome: "Yesterday, the WQCB approved the revisions to Tennessee's Water Quality Standards (1200-4-3 and 1200-4-4), including the latest revisions to the anti-degradation regulations that were agreed upon by environmental and industry interests. Although there was some compromise involved, we are very pleased with the new anti-degradation rules and believe this is an important step for the protection of Tennessee's higher quality waters. This would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of all of you and many others across the state. We appreciate your support!"

To receive an electronic copy of the new rules, contact TCWN at [kim@tcwn.org](mailto:kim@tcwn.org).

### E. Tell Forestry Commission we need responsible forestry legislation

Last year, at the urging of citizens' group, a number of agencies jointly undertook the Southern Forest Resource Assessment, SFRA (NL243 ¶6B; NL244 ¶5C). Subsequently, the State Forestry Commission was instructed by the Tennessee General Assembly to report to them by 3/1/04 on the impact of the SFRA on Tennessee's forests, and to make suggestions for changes in the state's forest policy.

This is an important opportunity because, in the absence of responsible forestry legislation, Tennessee is already suffering serious environmental and economic consequences of over-extraction and other damaging forestry practices; and the trend is toward major worsening of the situation. Any suggestions by the Commission will, of course, have to be followed up by legislation – a lengthy process in the future.

The Forestry Commission held four hearings between October 7 and 28 to receive public input on the SFRA. TCWP's Sandra Gosz presented oral comments at one of them. It is not too late, however, for us to provide written comments (see action box, below), and we urge you to do so.

The SFRA, though biased toward the pulp and paper industry, nevertheless contains many serious warnings that the Forestry Commission needs to heed. Among these warnings are the following:

- "The South has become the dominant timber-producing region in the country. More than 58% of domestic fiber production in 1997 was in the South."
- If trends continue, there will be a net loss of hardwood forests in the South (more extracted than planted). It has already happened with softwoods. Total forest loss is projected to be 8-12 million acres between 1992 and 2020.
- Southeastern Forests are the most diverse in the USA; yet the Cumberland Plateau, among the most diverse regions, has already had major forest loss (about 180,000 acres between 1982-1992) and is sustaining much more.
- Protection of species habitats and water quality "can no longer be relegated solely to public lands," because ~90% of the land in the South is privately owned.
- There are numerous imperiled and vulnerable species and ecosystems in Tennessee and the Southeast that are seriously impacted by loss of forest habitat.
- Logging is one of the major sources of water-quality damage, the major nonpoint-source pollutant being sedimentation.
- Voluntary Best Management Practices aren't working in Tennessee, where there is only 63% compliance (second worst of 12 southern states). BMPs need to be mandatory.
- There are more jobs related to tourism than to wood production (though timber harvesting is increasing, the % jobs in that field is decreasing). Outdoor recreation travelers spend more money per person per trip than do leisure travelers.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** The hearings have just ended, but you can send written testimony, by Nov. 3, to Tennessee Forestry Commission, Attn: Kay Fermann, P.O. Box 40627, Melrose Station, Nashville, TN 37204; or e-mail to [Kay.Fermann@state.tn.us](mailto:Kay.Fermann@state.tn.us). Tell them we need mandatory BMPs and other protective laws.

#### **F. ForestWatch database online**

With the help of a grant from TSRA, Forestwatch, a program of the Dogwood Alliance, has created the interactive web site [www.forestwatch.net](http://www.forestwatch.net), where trained forest watchers enter information about private-land logging that they have monitored or witnessed. The web site will display notices to agencies based on the information collected by forest watchers. On its publicly accessible portion, the web site will also contain information on agency requirements or laws, maps, and statistics.

This service is particularly important because Tennessee has no pre-logging notification requirements, leaving thousands of cuts unseen by agencies charged with stream or wildlife protection. Chip and paper mills are not required to answer for impacts caused by the logging that supplies their mills.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** When you see environmental damages caused by logging activities, or if you would like to be trained as a citizen forest watcher, contact ForestWatch at [cieosand@mindspring.com](mailto:cieosand@mindspring.com), or 423-332-0748.

#### **G. Conservation Voters considering legislative priorities**

Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) has begun the process of consulting their member organizations (including TCWP) about legislation they would like TCV to support during the next session of the Tennessee General Assembly. Among issues submitted by TCWP are: restoration of the wetlands-acquisition, and other acquisition, funds; increasing lands for state parks and natural areas; logging legislation/chip-mill control; securing a dedicated, permanent fund for a professionally managed state park system. In setting priorities for its efforts, TCV will consider not only importance of an issue, but its timeliness and whether the proposed legislation stands a chance of passage.

#### **H. Dodd Galbreath leaves TDEC**

For the past 10 years, Dodd Galbreath, who served in the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) in the area of policy planning, has maintained very good contact with the environmental community on a number of issues, especially water supply and demand (e.g., Cumberland Plateau dam proposals). He was an effective conduit to Justin Wilson, Gov. Sundquist's special advisor.

As of October 1, Dodd has transferred to a different branch of state government, the De-

partment of Agriculture's Water Resources Section, where he'll work in the Non-Point-Source Program. Agriculture and Forestry can, of course, be major sources of non-point-source water pollution. Dodd's e-mail address will remain [dodd.galbreath@state.tn.us](mailto:dodd.galbreath@state.tn.us). We hope to continue working with Dodd in his new capacity.

### 3. MINING DEVASTATION

#### A. Mountaintop removal comes to Tennessee:

##### **Zeb and Braden Mountains**

[Based on a contribution by  
Tiffany Hartung, SOCM]

##### Zeb Mountain

Early in July, the Knoxville Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and the Water Pollution Control Division of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) issued permits for the 2,139-acre surface mine in the community of Elk Valley in Campbell County (the second largest surface coal mine ever approved by the state). This permit allows the Robert Clear Coal Company to blast and remove the three peaks of Zeb Mountain using a new type of mining called Cross Ridge Mining.

Cross Ridge Mining is a variation of Mountaintop Removal, in which all or most of a mountain is removed, and then the operator purports to put the mountain back to approximate original contour (AOC). The word approximate is key, given that the peaks will not necessarily be restored to their original elevation and OSM's guide lines call for 20' wide terraces every 50'. If an operator is successful in rebuilding a mountain after it has been blasted apart and the coal has been removed, the mountain will not look like the one that was the rebefore.

Since the passage of the federal surface mining reclamation act in 1977, mountaintop removal has been a controversial extraction method, making national news and going as far as rulings in the federal courts (e.g., NL245 ¶8D). The last mountaintop removal mining operation in Tennessee occurred in the 1980's.

In the case of Zeb Mountain, there are over 100 homes within 1/2 mile, and an elementary school just a 1/2 mile away in the valley below. After only five weeks of mining, the operation resulted in sedimentation problems in Dan's Branch and Lick Fork, as reported by local residents and documented by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service visit to the site. It will be interesting to see what

TDEC does about these apparent water quality violations.

##### Braden Mountain

Just a few miles away from Zeb Mountain, is another proposed "Cross Ridge Mining" operation on Braden Mountain. The permit for the 665-acre area in the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area has already been approved by OSM. However, in 2000, the Gatliff Coal Company, which holds the permit to mine on Braden Mountain, indicated that they were not planning to begin mining in the near future and requested that they not have to post a performance bond. By going into "Bond Deferred Status," the company avoids having to reapply for a permit when they later decide to open the mine.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) recently announced that it is preparing to take new bids from coal operators to mine the coal under Braden Mountain. TVA indicated in a draft document about the proposed lease that "recent developments in the coal market have made the formerly proposed mining operation more economically attractive, and TVA now proposes to enter into a new lease agreement."

##### TVA's Kopper Coal Reserve

TVA is in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will examine the impact of surface and deep mining in the Koppers Coal Reserve, located in a 53,000-acre area in Campbell and Scott Counties to which TVA owns the mineral rights. This coal reserve largely overlaps the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area, which is managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). TVA is proposing that 13 mountains within the Royal Blue area be cross-ridge mined. A portion of TVA's proposed mining area is in the watershed of the Big South Fork National Recreation Area.

##### NEPA aspects

Although TVA is working on an EIS for the Kopper's Reserve, OSM did not require an EIS for the Zeb Mountain/Elk Valley mining operation. In early October, SOCM, the Sierra Club, and other groups filed suit in federal district court in Knoxville against OSM for this violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Knowledgeable observers fear that the Zeb and Braden Mountain operations are just the beginning of a Tennessee trend toward the Cross-ridge/Mountaintop Removal mining that has devastated West Virginia and Kentucky. They are particularly disappointed that a state agency, TDEC's Water Pollution Control Divi-

sion, issued a permit for the Zeb Mountain/Elk Valley operation, the most destructive type of coal mining ever invented.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Send a strong message to Governor Bredeisen (contact information on p.2), urging him to protect the waters of our state, and not to allow Tennessee to be devastated by the type of mining that has ruined West Virginia and Kentucky. For more information, contact Tiffany Hartung at [tiffany@socm.org](mailto:tiffany@socm.org), or (865) 426-9455.

#### **B. Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program needs extension**

The 1977 Surface Mining Act provides for reclamation of abandoned ("orphan") mine lands through a special fund that is fed by a small percentage of the revenues from the mining that has occurred since passage of the Act. This AML (Abandoned Mine Lands) program is, however, set to end in 2004, even though large amounts of money still remain in the fund (at least on paper). Furthermore, Tennessee, which has hundreds of abandoned coal mines, has been receiving much less money than other states because it switched from a state to a federal enforcement program about 2 decades ago.

Legislation is needed to reauthorize the AML and give Tennessee a fairer share. Several organizations are working on getting such legislation introduced, but have not succeeded so far.

#### **4. SMOKIES ISSUES**

#### **A. Ravensford exchange bill passes House**

Rep. Charles Taylor's (R-NC) HR.1409, the EBCI Land Exchange Act, passed the House on September 23 by a vote of 288 : 127. To his credit, Rep. John Duncan, Jr. (R-TN) was one of 4 Republicans voting Nay. The bill requires the National Park Service (NPS) to give 143 acres of Park land to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI), in exchange for a non-contiguous parcel, the 218-acre Waterrock Knob site 15 miles from the Park (near the southern end of the Blue Ridge Parkway) (NL252 ¶3B).

Taylor's bill attempts to preempt the National Park Service's current NEPA process pertaining to the exchange. The Draft EIS, which will include a preferred alternative, is expected to be ready for public review early next year. It should evaluate the impact of removal from the GRSMNP of a high-value portion of the flood-

plain forest believed to be unique in North Carolina, and should contain results of resource studies which show, among other things, that 255 species new to GRSMNP records were found on, and adjacent to, the Ravensford site, and that 58 species that are thought to be new to science would be lost.

The Senate has not yet voted on HR.1409. The great fear is that Rep. Taylor, who chairs the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, will attempt to attach HR.1409 to the Interior Appropriations bill when this goes to Conference Committee, where deals are cut. (Three years ago, he pulled this trick with the North Shore Road bill, see ¶4B, below.)

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Without delay, contact Senators Alexander (R-TN), Frist (R-TN), and Edwards (D-NC, a Presidential candidate), opposing the land exchange principle (terrible precedent for a National Park to give away land) as well as for its particulars (see above and NL252 ¶3B). Urge them, especially, to resist having HR.1409 attached to the Interior Appropriations bill, which would be a sneaky way to assure its passage and preempt the EIS. The fate of the Ravensford tract should be determined by science and public input through the NEPA process, not by an Act of Congress. Addresses on p.2.

#### **B. North Shore Road: appropriation needed for a cash settlement**

The EIS process is continuing, with another round of NPS public meetings having been completed in September. It is expected to cost \$4 million, which comes out of the \$16 million Rep. Taylor got appropriated for North Shore Road construction late in 2000 (NL236 ¶3A).

With both Senators Alexander (R-TN) and Edwards (D-NC) now having come out in favor of the cash settlement (in lieu of the road) for which the Swain County Board of Commissioners voted in mid-February (NL250 ¶7A), it would make a lot of sense to reach that settlement expeditiously, instead of wasting additional money on the road EIS. Thus, as suggested by Sen. Edwards (NL252 ¶3A), more of the already-appropriated \$16 million could be used toward the cash settlement. Additional funds would require a separate Congressional appropriation, which some wise legislator would have to introduce as a bill. The logical person would be Congressman Taylor — but can you just see that happening?!



**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Secretary Gale Norton, US Dept of the Interior (1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240; [exsec@ios.doi.gov](mailto:exsec@ios.doi.gov)). Urge her to heed Sen. Alexander's views on arranging a cash settlement in lieu of the road (it would cost only one-third as much), and to propose an Administration bill to that effect.

## 5. SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN NATIONAL FORESTS NOW TARGETED FOR LOGGING

After the US Forest Service (USFS) has released its draft plans for five national forests in the Southern Appalachians (including the Cherokee), and after public input had occurred, the agency secretly made a drastic change in its management direction for these forests, which collectively cover ~3 million acres. Throughout the many-year process of drafting the management plans, the USFS consistently acknowledged that the biological and recreational values of the Southern Appalachian forests were of primary importance, and that timber production would only be a "byproduct" of managing for these other values. The guiding principle was to be environmental restoration, the management goals being watershed health, ecosystem sustainability, recovery of threatened and endangered species, and similar objectives.

At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, the USFS made a drastic change in direction. In briefing papers stamped "Not Releasable," the regional leadership team decided to allow individual national forests to designate lands where the primary emphasis would be "the purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of regulated crops of trees ..." [for a copy of the Southern Regional Briefing document, contact Cat McCue at SELC: 434-977-4090, or [cmccue@selcva.org](mailto:cmccue@selcva.org)].

Environmental organizations are considering whether a late change of this magnitude constitutes a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA requires thorough environmental review and full public involvement.

The revised Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Final EIS for the Cherokee National Forest will be ready for distribution in January. If you commented on the Draft, you will receive a printed copy and a CD. If you did not comment, you can request, (a) a printed set, or (b) a summary and CD (write: LMP, Cherokee NF, PO Box 2010, Cleveland, TN 37320). The documents are online at

[www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/cherokee](http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/cherokee)

## 6. TVA AND AIR QUALITY

### A. Rate hike being blamed on pollution-control costs

When the TVA Board voted for a 7.4% electric rate hike in late August, Board members blamed it on the cost of pollution control requirements at the agency's coal-fired power plants. But, as pointed out by Steve Smith, director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, speaking at TCWP's quarterly meeting of August 19, other major reasons for the rate hike were TVA's intent to restart Browns Ferry nuclear plant in Alabama (\$1.8 billion), the agency's need to pay down its huge debt (TVA pays \$1.4 billion a year on the interest), and upcoming expensive maintenance costs. By comparison, about \$340 million per year will be needed until 2010 for environmental cleanup. The TVA Board's blaming the rate hike entirely on pollution-control costs was a calculated attempt to manipulate public opinion.

East Tennessee is among the worst air-quality regions in the country; more than 60% of our power comes from coal-fired power plants, and TVA burns 40 million tons of coal annually. Only 35% of inherent energy is recovered by coal-fired plants, and the combustion contributes haze, acid precipitation, ozone, carbon dioxide, and mercury. Of 59 boilers in TVA's 11 coal plants, only 18 will soon have scrubbers & have them now). Limiting SO<sub>2</sub> is relatively easiest; limiting carbon emissions, which contribute mightily to global warming, needs new, efficient technology.

### B. Chairman endorses "Clear Skies"

TVA Chairman Glenn McCullough, testifying before a Senate subcommittee considering air quality legislation, endorsed the Bush Administration's Clear Skies initiative. Since then, Tennessee's Sen. Lamar Alexander, concerned about the Smokies and our state's generally dismal air, has publicly recognized the inherent weaknesses of Clear Skies and the fact that it actually weakens existing laws (NL252 17A). Sen. Alexander has cosponsored the stronger Carper bill. It is regrettable that the TVA chairman, charged with the welfare of our region, has been unable to recognize the same facts.

Regrettably, also, both Sen. Frist and Rep. Wamp are still supporting the dismal Administration bill. About one-third of the air pollution in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is contributed by power plants. Bush's Clear Skies would be totally inadequate to fix the major damages. Even after 15 years, for example, the damage to Smokies' soils from acid precipitation

allowed by Clear Skies would be 2.5 times higher than the level at which soils can begin to recover.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** People of Tennessee should demand that Sen. Bill Frist, the Senate Majority Leader, protect our Great Smoky Mountains National Park and our lungs by backing air-quality legislation that, unlike Clear Skies, could make a real difference. Ditto for our Congressmen (see p.2 for addresses), and for the TVA Board of Directors (West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902).

## C. TVA Caucus

The Tennessee Valley Authority Congressional Caucus is now chaired by Tennessee's Sen. Lamar Alexander.

## 7. OAK RIDGE and KNOXVILLE

### A. Cedar Barrens now has a steward; is featured in State magazine

In January 2003, TCWP published a report entitled "Oak Ridge Barrens: History, Significance, and Management" (NL249 ¶6B; NL250 ¶9B). This report, which led to reaffirmation of the Natural Area agreement (see below), among other things called for a steward who would coordinate protective management of the area. We are grateful to long-time TCWP member Tim Bigelow, who has now volunteered to serve as the steward. Tim has already scheduled a workday to remove exotics (see ¶9C, for details).

The *Tennessee Conservationist* of September/October carries an article by Reggie Reeves (Director of TDEC's Division of Natural Heritage) entitled "Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens Natural Area Celebrates 15 Years." Headed by a big color photo of Oak Ridge Mayor Bradshaw, TCWP President Cindy Kendrick, and TDEC Commissioner Betsy Child standing in front of the Natural Area sign, the article tells about the recent reaffirmation of the three-partner commitment to continue the protection of the ~6 acre area: the City as property owner, TCWP as the area's volunteer steward, and the state as technical advisor.

The article relates some of the efforts that were required to save and designate the area, then goes on to talk about how the unusual barrens ecology is being enjoyed by nature enthusiasts and as "a living outdoor classroom for ... the adjacent Jefferson Middle School." It also mentions TCWP's January 2003 report (see above), and how

it led to the reaffirmation of the Natural Area agreement. To request a copy of the *Tennessee Conservationist* article, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Sandra Goss, 4308 Thornwood, Knoxville, TN 37921.

### B. Meeting with DOE Manager to discuss future ORR Land Use

[Contributed by Dev Joslin]

On September 18, representatives from Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR), TCWP, and Friends of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (FORNL) met with Gerald Boyd, Manager of the Dept. of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Operations (ORO). The primary topic of discussion was land use planning for the nearly 30,000 acres of Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) land that was not considered by the Focus Group in 2001-2002 (NL247 ¶8A). These acres consist of most of the DOE land east and south of highway 58. They surround the Y-12 facility and ORNL and include the Three Bends Scenic Area and Wildlife Refuge along the Clinch River.

While representatives present advocated further long-range planning for these areas, Manager Boyd assured the group that (a) DOE considered all these lands to be essential to DOE's current mission and (b) ORO had not received, and did not anticipate receiving, any requests for transfers of any of this land in the near future (with the exception of three small parcels associated with the Museum, AMSE). If any such requests were to be received, the organizations represented at the meeting and the public would be promptly notified. When asked about DOE's intentions regarding the Three Bends area, he indicated that DOE intends to renew its current agreement with the state of Tennessee (due to expire in January 2006), wherein the area would continue to be managed by TWRA.

Representatives also pointed out to Mr. Boyd that the prior agreement between DOE and the state to protect 17 State Natural Areas on the ORR had never been renewed following their cancellation well over a year ago. ORO representatives had indicated to the press at that time that renewal would occur promptly. Manager Boyd was surprised to hear this and promised to look into the matter.

### C. Oak Ridge City Council passes resolution criticizing conservation assessment

[Contributed by Dev Joslin]

On August 5, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) held a lis-

tening session to receive public input on future management of the over 3,000 acres on Black Oak Ridge on the western end of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). This area is to be placed under a conservation easement and managed by the State of Tennessee for an "indefinite period" for conservation, research, and recreation (NL249 ¶6A). The agreement had been negotiated by the Natural Resources Damages Assessment (NRDA) team as partial payment to the people of Tennessee for pollution damages caused by DOE.

Those 50 or more citizens attending the public hearing (NL252 ¶6A) gave nearly unanimous support and approval of the general concept of this conservation area with opportunities for low-impact recreation. TCWP as an organization, and several individual members, subsequently submitted written comments to that effect.

In sharp contrast, the Oak Ridge City Council on September 22 passed a resolution authorizing comments to be sent to TDEC that criticized the federal Natural Resources Damages Assessment (NRDA) team (see above) for not including a representative of Oak Ridge city government on the federal panel. The City Council resolution also urged TDEC and other parties involved to limit the term of the conservation easement over a portion of the acreage to five years. The resolution argued that some of this land was part of Parcel D, a "self-sufficiency" parcel, and the city might want to request that DOE allow it to develop that land in the future.

This City Council resolution was passed in spite of the fact that the Oak Ridge Regional Planning Commission had previously recommended that this same area not be zoned for development because of excessive steepness. Council passed the resolution even after hearing comments from at least 5 Oak Ridge citizens who pointed out that the NRDA decision was based on the unanimous recommendation of all 20 participants of the Focus Group, which had included the then City Manager, two City Council members, three Chamber of Commerce representatives, and other Oak Ridge citizens. After studying and discussing the area for a year, the Focus Group had decided that this identical area's best land use was for conservation, research, and recreation. Citizens at the Sept. 22 City Council meeting also noted the advantages to the city of the conservation area and of the recreational opportunities the area would provide.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Gerald Boyd, Manager, Oak Ridge Operations, USDOE (PO

Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-2001), and/or to members of the Oak Ridge City Council (PO Box 1, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0001, or [ccouncil@corr.org](mailto:ccouncil@corr.org)), expressing your views on the value of preserving public lands, in particular the Black Oak Ridge 3,073-acre easement for conservation, research, and recreation.

#### **D. City of Oak Ridge intends to request more land on the west end for residential development**

(Contributed by Dev Joslin)

The Oak Ridge City Manager's Office and certain City Council members have recently indicated that they are interested in soon requesting about 250 acres of DOE Reservation land on the west end of Oak Ridge for residential development. This would be in addition to the 278-acre tract of former DOE Reservation land (Parcel A) the city has been trying to sell for development on the east end of Oak Ridge. The additional ~250 acres that the city considers requesting is located immediately adjacent to the 3,000-acre Black Oak Ridge conservation easement. The city indicated publicly about a year ago that it was interested in asking DOE for somewhere between 65 and 200 acres to the west of Wisconsin Avenue and immediately south of Whippoorwill Drive. Since then, the extent of their request has grown. The city's request is still in the formative stage and has not been formally submitted to DOE.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Gerald Boyd, Manager, Oak Ridge Operations, USDOE (PO Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-2001), and/or to members of the Oak Ridge City Council (PO Box 1, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0001, or [ccouncil@corr.org](mailto:ccouncil@corr.org)), expressing your views on transferring additional public lands to the city for development purposes.

#### **E. Knoxville trust fund to be created for park-lands acquisition, etc.**

In early September, the Knoxville City Council passed an amendment that would be placed in the city charter by referendum in August 2004. It will create a 20-year trust fund for parks, greenways, and historic preservation. The sum of \$250,000 annually is to be placed into the fund, for the Mayor and Council to use for land acquisition or capital projects only, starting July 1, 2005. Over the course of 20 years, this will amount to \$5 million.

## 8. NATIONAL ISSUES

### A. Sec. Norton's multiple assaults on wilderness

Under a 1976 law (the FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is required to inventory all of its lands for wilderness characteristics, following which the President must send Congress his recommendations for wilderness designation. Until Congress reaches a final decision, the recommended areas (Wilderness Study Areas, WSAs) must be managed so as not to impair their suitability for wilderness designation. Thus, the exclusive power of Congress to make these decisions is protected from premature agency approval of any non-wilderness uses of these lands.

A few months ago, Interior Secretary Norton, (a) ordered the BLM to cease any current or new inventories for wilderness eligibility, and (b) revoked existing protection for many millions of acres of WSAs and Wilderness Inventory Areas that had been established after 1993 (the first year of Presidential wilderness recommendations under the 1976 FLPMA). These lands are now open to mining, drilling, and other developments.

And there was a third line of attack: (c) allowing state and local governments to use the so-called RS2477 right-of-way provision to claim cow paths, ghost roads, and wash bottoms as "highways" (NL240 §5E) thus disqualifying huge tracts of public lands (which belong to the entire nation, and not just to the localities) from wilderness designation. Fortunately, a compromise amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill (offered to preempt a more stringent one) would prevent the Interior Department from processing applications for rights-of-way on lands within a designated National Monument, Wilderness Study Area, National Park System unit, National Wildlife System unit, or lands within the National Wilderness Preservation System."

Not only do Sec. Norton's actions jeopardize new wilderness designations for the duration of this Administration, but they carry over into the future. As potential wilderness lands get degraded by developments to which the Bush Administration has now opened them, they will no longer qualify for Wilderness Study status in the years to come.

One of the great wilderness advocates of our time, Mardy Murie (widow of Olaus Murie, a Wilderness Society founder) said: "I hope the United States of America is not so rich that she can afford to let these wildernesses pass by, or so poor that she cannot afford to keep them." Mar-

die Murie died a couple of weeks ago at the age of 101.

### B. Administration exploits fear of fire to boost logging

The public fear of forest fires is being exploited by the Bush Administration to push for increased logging in national forests. Studies have shown, however, that the logging of larger (the most fire-resistant) trees can actually increase the fire hazard, and that the best way to protect communities is to use fireproof building materials and to thin trees and brush in the immediate vicinity of communities. This best strategy is not being addressed.

The Administration is pursuing its agenda by regulatory as well as legislative means. New regulations adopted in May will promote large-scale logging on huge acreages (far distant from communities) without any environmental review or right of public appeal. The excuse was that the public's right to appeal logging plans interferes with fire prevention. But the government's own data indicate that 93% of all projects go through without any appeals, and only 0.3% of projects ever wind up in court.

The Administration is also sponsoring legislation, dubbed (in "Bushpeak") the "Healthy Forests Initiative." The primary bill, HR.1904, sponsored by Congressional allies of the timber industry, would allow the logging of large trees (including old-growth trees) in pristine backcountry, and it would waive environmental laws, interfere with judicial review, and reduce public input for logging projects in our national forests and other public lands. In addition, new subsidies would be provided for industry to log our public lands.

A vote on HR.1904 was temporarily stalled in mid-October, when Senate Democrats called for a new hearing on an Administration-brokered Senate compromise bill.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Without delay, contact your Senators (address on p.2) to let them know that the "Healthy Forests Initiative" is a scam that will deliver up the nation's best trees to the timber industry without addressing the fire hazard to communities.

### C. Important National Park Service functions hurt by reshuffling funds

During his 2000 presidential campaign, the major part of George W. Bush's environmental platform consisted of a promise to "fix the main-

tenance backlog" for the National Park System, and he pledged an additional \$5 billion over a 5-year period for this purpose. In recent photo-ops (e.g., when shoveling dirt onto a park trail that was being repaired), he declared that \$2.9 of the promised \$5 billion had already been spent thus far.

Unfortunately (according to NPCA), most of this amount (\$2.5 billion) has, in fact, been re-shuffled from money that had already been going to the parks for necessary NPS functions, such as interpretive services. A mere \$360 used for fixing the backlog has come from the new, additional, funds that had been promised. Furthermore, a Government Accounting Office (GAO) analysis this year shows that the maintenance backlog has not measurably declined.

#### **D. Administration seeks to exempt Dept. of Defense from environmental laws**

[From NRDC's *Nature's Voice*]

The military, is one of the nation's biggest land owners, with authority over hundreds of endangered species. Earlier this year, Vice President Cheney and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld personally lobbied key members of Congress to exempt DoD from five major environmental laws. However, a government report turned up no evidence that environmental protection was hurting the military, and EPA testified that the agency knew of no training mission that had been delayed or cancelled for environmental considerations.

In the end, the Senate rejected four of the five DoD requests for exemptions from environmental laws, leaving only a weakened exemption from the Endangered Species Act. The House exempted DoD both from the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. A conference committee is working to reconcile Senate and House bills.

#### **E. Interior Department continues non-protection policies for endangered species**

In May, USDI declared it would stop designating critical habitat for federally threatened and endangered species. For the past 5 months, the US Fish & Wildlife Service's (FWS's) critical habitat action plans have had the following statement inserted at their beginning: "Designation of critical habitat provides little additional protection to species." The Dept. of the Interior is seeking delays of months, if not years, in court orders (brought by environmental groups) that di-

rect the FWS to designate areas critical to the recovery of 32 species threatened with extinction.

#### **F. Good news for Okefenokee**

Many of us who have experienced the wonderful wilderness of the ~400,000-acre Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (on the Georgia-Florida border), especially on one of the several canoe trails, were much worried when, in 1999, the DuPont Co. proposed to mine land along the eastern edge for titanium dioxide. At that time, Pres. Clinton's Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt, joined environmental groups in opposition to the proposal, but worry resumed after Sec. Norton took over the Interior Dept. two years later.

Now, thanks to the efforts of the Conservation Fund, DuPont will donate the 16,000-acre potential mine site to the Fund, which will protect it against development. This represents the largest land-conservation gift in Georgia history.

### **8. TCWP NEWS**

#### **A. TCWP Board for 2004**

The following were elected at TCWP's annual meeting on October 11

President: Cindy Kendrick  
Vice President: Mark Peterson  
Secretary: Mary Lynn Dobson  
Treasurer: Charlie Klabunde  
Directors:

David Adler  
Jason Darby  
Carol Grametbauer  
Jimmy Groton  
Ralph Harvey  
Frank Hensley  
Lee Russell

Nominating Committee:  
Chuck Coutant  
Chuck Estes  
Richard Raridon

For the first time in TCWP history, there are no newcomers to the Board. The 2003 Board was so enthusiastic and effective that last year's Nominating Committee found it unnecessary to find new candidates.

#### **B. Report on TCWP Annual Meeting**

The place was ideal (Historic Rugby school house for the morning program, Big South Fork area for the afternoon hikes), the weather was fine, and the program excellent. We missed a significant fraction of the Board (who had, on the

previous day, embarked on a raft trip through the Grand Canyon), but welcomed an old friend from the past, TCWP's first executive director, Bill Chandler.

Talks by the two excellent representatives of our new State government are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter (12A and 12B).

About a dozen people enjoyed the hike (led by Hal Smith) to the Meeting of the Waters, past the Gentlemen's Swimming Hole. As always, walkers were enchanted by the sandstone sculpturing and colors of the bluffs, and by the huge boulders in the Clear Fork River. Another four people ventured on the more demanding Honey Creek hike, led by Charlie Klabunde who reports that it took them just 3 1/4 hours, including plenty of looking at details.

The silent auction netted \$354.00. Our sincere thanks to Dr. George Brown who contributed a canoe, which attracted the largest single bid.

### C. Upcoming activities

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

#### Fingers Area hike, Saturday, Nov. 8, 10:30 a.m.

Come explore the rich woods and fields of our TVA peninsula known as the Fingers that are surrounded by Watts Bar Lake. Our path will be rich with both natural and human history. Great views of fall colors will be reflected in the coves. A variety of waterfowl may be seen -- loons, grebes, eagles, osprey, and 3 kinds of herons. We'll pass an Indian mound, and old home sites. If the water is at winter level, the remains of Tennessee's earlier inhabitants may be visible -- fossils from 250 million years ago.

Pack water and lunch. For directions and map, email [heronhill@earthlink.net](mailto:heronhill@earthlink.net) or call Mary Lynn at 865-354-4924. To carpool from Oak Ridge, meet at 9:30 a.m. near the western edge of the Food City parking lot, corner of Illinois Ave. and the Oak Ridge Turnpike.

#### Cedar Barrens workday, Nov. 15, 9:00 a.m.

We need volunteers to help get rid of some invasive exotic pest plants that threaten the quality of the Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens (behind Jefferson Middle School). Many thanks to Tim Bigelow for his willingness to take on stewardship of the Barrens (17A, this NL). Appreciation also to Jimmy Groton and Larry Pounds for identifying the undesirable plants in the area.

Cedar barrens are small woodland openings with vegetation similar to that of the Tall Grass Prairie in the Midwest and Great Plains. These prairie species cannot tolerate shade, and without regular workdays, the grasses and forbs in the

barren would give way to woody species, developing into a shading oak/pine canopy.

Volunteers should bring gloves, clippers or loppers, and water.

#### Holiday Party, Thursday, December 4, 7-9 p.m.

Once again, Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen are graciously hosting TCWP's annual membership holiday party in Oak Ridge. Look for your invitation in the mail. This party is always one of the best of the season.

### D. ORNL offers Community Share as giving option

The Community Shares Campaign has now been added to the charitable giving options for ORNL employees. ORNL's first campaign ran from September 15 through October 17. Contributions can be made via payroll deductions (a payroll authorization form must be completed). Several ORNL staff members were already supporters of Community Shares and/or its member agencies (which include TCWP), and many more will, hopefully, be added. For additional information, go to the ORNL Community Shares web site, <http://www.esd.ornl.gov/~wmp/CS/>, or contact Mac Post at 576-3431, or [postwmil@ornl.gov](mailto:postwmil@ornl.gov).

### E. Knoxville Community Food Co-op

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TCWP was named the October Partner of the Knoxville Community Food Co-op's "First Monday Program." TCWP will receive 5% of the Co-op's sales made on Monday, October 6, as well as money collected throughout the month from donation boxes.

Many Members and regular shoppers of the Food Co-op are familiar with the "First Monday Program" and choose to support their communities by buying their weekly groceries on the first Monday of every month. Avail yourself of this opportunity to purchase exciting cheeses, fairly-traded coffees, wonderful teas, eco-friendly cleaning products, beautiful organic produce, mighty fine beers, and much more!

The Knoxville Community Food Co-op, open daily from 9-9, is located at 937 N. Broadway about one mile north of Downtown Knoxville (across the street from Broadway Carpets).

### F. Award to be named in Bill Russell's honor

The Tennessee Clean Water Network is planning to establish an annual "Bill Russell River Hero" award to honor a Tennessean who

has made a significant contribution to the protection or restoration of our state's waters.

## G. News from allied organizations

### New leadership at Clean Water Network

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

We welcome Renee Hoyos, who has been named Executive Director of the Tennessee Clean Water Network. She most recently worked with the California Resources Agency and served as Special Assistant to Secretary Nichols for Watersheds and Outreach. In addition to working in watershed management, she was also the environmental education and environmental justice coordinator, and the point of contact for Wild and Scenic Rivers issues for the Agency.

TCWN founder and former executive director Danielle Drosch recently accepted the position of policy director for the Hydropower Reform Coalition in Washington DC.

### Mack Prichard to speak at AFORR

[Based on a contribution by Dev Joslin]

Mack Prichard, Naturalist for Tennessee State Parks, will be the speaker at AFORR's annual meeting, Nov. 20, at Oak Ridge (see ¶10, Calendar, for details). Prichard will present a slide show from his vast and varied collection and will discuss success stories regarding conservation and the environment in Tennessee, with an emphasis on East Tennessee. He has decades of experience in various approaches to conserving unique parcels of land and will discuss what works and does not work in such conservation efforts. The speaker will be preceded by a brief business meeting, which will include a review of AFORR's accomplishments and battles of the past year.

### Cumberland Trail Conference: new exec. director

After more than 5 years, Rob Weber, who has made the Cumberland Trail State Park into a major success story, is stepping down as executive director of CTC. Search for a replacement is under way (see ¶10, this NL). Rob's wife Susan will continue as terrific office manager until June 2004, and Rob will be retained in an "advisory" role through the same date. Both will be volunteers "till the end."

## 10. JOB OPENINGS; FELLOWSHIPS; CALENDAR; RESOURCES

### •• Job opening: scholarships; fellowships

#### • Job opening: Cumberland Trail Conference, Executive Director

The Cumberland Trail Conference is a dynamic volunteer-driven Tennessee non-profit organization responsible for the acquisition and development of the 300-mile Cumberland Trail State Park. We seek an Executive Director with 5 years' experience in non-profit management, community-based acquisition, and linear recreational trail development skills. Strong organizational vision and the capability to motivate volunteers and obtain results, a must. Position based in Crossville, Tennessee. Minimum starting salary \$35K, negotiable, dependent on experience; salary requirements requested. Full job description at [www.cumberlandtrail.org](http://www.cumberlandtrail.org). Resumes, related experience, and references accepted through February 1, 2004. Send to Cumberland Trail Conference, 19 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Crossville, TN 38555.

#### • Two scholarships offered

Two scholarships (\$3,600 and \$10,000, respectively) are available through the University of Tennessee to carry out research projects at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Proposals for both are due by December 20. For information contact Tonnie Maniero, National Park Service, NE Region, 31 Whiteford Road, Rochester, NY 14620, 585-461-5589, [Tonnie\\_Maniero@nps.gov](mailto:Tonnie_Maniero@nps.gov).

#### • Sutherland Fellowship

The Rick Sutherland Fellowship Fund was created to "enable socio-economically disadvantaged lawyers with otherwise insufficient financial means to engage in public interest litigation that would benefit the environment through employment with a 501 C(3) or 501 C(4) organization." The fellowship is a two-year grant of up to \$12,000 annually. Applications are due 11/30/03. To find out eligibility requirements, contact EarthJustice at 510-550-6700, or [ecajus@earthjustice.org](mailto:ecajus@earthjustice.org).

#### • Rockefeller Humanities Fellowships

These fellowships at the Univ. of Kentucky are intended for activists who are working for a greater measure of social and ecological justice in Appalachia. Applications due 2/3/04. Contact Wolfgang Natter, 859-257-3903, or visit [www.spa.ky.ac.uk/center.org](http://www.spa.ky.ac.uk/center.org).

- **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))

- Without delay, take action on:  
Obed acquisition funds (§1B)  
Ravensford exchange bill (§4A)
- October 28, 5:30 p.m., TDEC Office, 761 Emory Valley Road, Oak Ridge. "State of East Fork Poplar Creek."
- October 29, 10:00-11:30 a.m., beginning in parking lot of Big Turtle Park, Oak Ridge. "Using Fish Communities to Monitor Remediation Effectiveness." Field trip to observe fish-population estimation in Mill Branch, a tributary of East Fork Poplar Creek.
- November 3, Comment deadline for Tenn. Forestry Commission (§2E).
- Nov. 4-6, Asheville, NC, "Meeting the Challenges of a Changing Region," 2003 SAMAB Fall Conference (SAMAB = Southern Appalachian Man and The Biosphere). Sessions will deal with air quality, invasive plants, the hemlock woolly adelgid, protection of streams, and other vital issues. Visit [samab@utk.edu](mailto:samab@utk.edu) for further information.
- November 8, Fingers Area off-trail hike (§9C).
- November 12, Comment deadline for BSP mussel EA (§1A).
- November 15, Cedar Barrens work day (§9C).
- November 20, 7-9 p.m., AFORR Annual Meeting at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 127 Lafayette Drive (corner of Laboratory Road), Oak Ridge, (§9C).
- December 4, TCWP Holiday Party, Oak Ridge (§9C).
- December 6, Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition meeting at Lambuth Inn, Lake Junaluska (contact Gregory Kidd [skidd@NPCA.ORG](mailto:skidd@NPCA.ORG)).

#### • **Publications and web sites**

- "Natural Resource Year in Review - 2002" is published by the National Park Service, Natural Resource Information Division, PO Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287.
- "Strangely Like War: The Global Assault on Forests," by Derrick Jensen and George Drafan, is an exposé of the activities of an industrial forestry system increasingly globalized and operating outside of any local or even national controls, which threatens the basic life support system of the planet itself. (Published by Chelsea Green, 2003, ISBN 1-931498-45-8; \$15).
- The new Alaska Wilderness League web site is at [www.alaskawild.org](http://www.alaskawild.org). It has the latest information

on the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, the Tongass, and other issues.

- Rivers Unlimited has an upgraded website at [www.riversunlimited.org](http://www.riversunlimited.org). It contains river information, reports on technical water-quality issues, etc.

#### • **Other resources**

- A directory of attorneys who will represent citizens in land-use and environmental cases has been posted on the web site of Community & Environmental Defense Services (CEDS), [www.ceds.org](http://www.ceds.org). Or e-mail to [atty@ceds.org](mailto:atty@ceds.org).
- Maps of TVA reservoirs, navigation maps, topographical maps of Valley states, aerial photographs, etc. are available from TVA's map store. Call 1-800-627-7882, or e-mail [mapstore@tva.com](mailto:mapstore@tva.com).
- The Knoxville Recycling Coalition has available used 95-gallon bins that can be put to work composting and for other jobs. KRC is asking for a \$20 donation to purchase new bins. Contact KRC at 525-9694 or [recycle@esper.com](mailto:recycle@esper.com).
- TDoT's Community Relations Division wants to hear from citizens about their various road-related concerns. Log onto [www.tennessee.gov/tidot](http://www.tennessee.gov/tidot), or contact the constituent services office at [TDOT.comments@state.tn.us](mailto:TDOT.comments@state.tn.us).

*"Wilderness itself is the basis of all our civilization. I wonder if we have enough reverence for life to concede to wilderness the right to live on?"*

Margaret "Mardy" Murie, 1902-2003