



**T**ennessee  
**C**itizens for  
**W**ilderness  
**P**lanning

# Newsletter No. 254

January 9, 2004

## Taking Care of Wild Places

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Several acquisitions funded ..... ¶2A

EPA facilitates mountain-top removal .... ¶3A

Major highway proposed in Cherokee. ¶4A

Need to kill bad energy bill..... ¶7A

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Editor: Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Phone, 865-482-2153

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

# 11. ACTION SUMMARY

J No	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1 & 2A	Appropriations for Obed and other areas	Reps. Wamp, Davis; Senators	"Thank you very much!"
3A & B	Mountaintop removal	Gov. Bredesen	"Do not allow this devastating mining in Tennessee!"
3C	Abandoned Mine Lands bill	Rep. Davis, Your Sens.	"Extend AML Program! Tennessee needs fairer share!"
4A	Highway through Cherokee NF	TDOT -- by January 15!	"We need better plan than the "build" alternatives!"
5A	North Shore Road, Smokies	US Rep and Sens.	"Appropriate \$\$ for cash settlement in lieu of road!"
6C	TVA's mission	Sen. Alexander	"Caucus must protect entire TVA mission, not just power!"
7A	Energy bill	Your US Senators	"Give them reasons why the energy bill needs to be killed!"
9B	Elections	League of Conserv. Voters	"Inform yourself; vote; make the environment count."
9D	Free air time for candidates	Your US Senators	"Support S. 1497 (McCain/Feingold/Durbin)!"
10A	TCWP Action Alerts	Sandra Goss	Get on TCWP's e-mail alert list

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  
202-456-1414; Fax 456-2461  
[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

Governor Phil Bredesen  
State Capitol  
Nashville, TN 37243-9872  
615-741-2001; Fax 615-532-9711  
[phil.bredesen@state.tn.us](mailto:phil.bredesen@state.tn.us)

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  
e-mail: <http://frist.senate.gov/contact.cfm>  
Local: 865-602-7977

Sen. Lamar Alexander:  
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398  
e-mail: <http://alexanders.senate.gov/contact.cfm>  
Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252)

Rep. Zach Wamp:  
Phone: 202-225-3271  
FAX: 202-225-3494  
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 Tabor 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)

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

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

## 1. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

### A. *Obed to receive \$750,000 for land acquisition*

While nationwide, land acquisition fared very badly in this year's Interior Appropriations Act (§7E, this NL) the Obed appropriation survived two serious hurdles and ended up with \$750,000. This amount is only about half of the \$1,569,000 Congressman Wamp had originally tried to include in the House bill, an amount that would have purchased 700 of the 1,231 acres that are still privately owned within the boundaries of the Obed WSR. (The remaining 531 acres represent tracts for which owners have not to date expressed their willingness to sell).

Because of House Interior Appropriations chairman Charles Taylor's total opposition to federal land acquisition, the House bill emerged without Obed appropriation of any kind. The Senate bill, however, contained the \$1,569,000.

We owe the fact that even half of this amount survived the Conference Committee to the support of Senators Frist and Alexander, and undoubtedly to the continuing championship of Reps. Wamp and Davis. This is the first land-acquisition appropriation the Obed has received since the time of its original authorization in 1976. The infusion of funds, though in an amount smaller than needed, will be helpful just to get the process going again and to show land owners that there is hope for selling their properties. The most recent purchase of land occurred almost 7 years ago years ago and involved a tract near Lilly Bluff.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Be sure to express your sincere appreciation to Reps. Wamp and Lincoln Davis, and to Senators Frist and Alexander (addresses on p.2) for securing an Obed appropriation in the face of severe odds! Let them know that, thanks to their support, it will now be possible for NPS to protect some Obed lands that are threatened by adverse development. Thank them also for other Tennessee lands that received appropriations (§2A, below).

### B. *A good Preferred Alternative is chosen for the*

#### **BSF mussel-recovery plan**

TCWP recently commented on the National Park Service's (NPS's) revisions of the 2002 plan for mussel recovery in the Big South Fork NRRRA. NPS made these revisions in order to address con-

cerns that had been expressed by the Tennessee Oil and Gas Association (TOGA) and by horse interests. By thoroughly addressing these concerns, NPS strengthened the case for Preferred Alternative #3 even more. Alternative #3 not only proposes measures to encourage population growth of remaining mussel species but calls for the reintroduction of the additional species that had been historically reported from the BSF, using animals collected outside the National Area. Additionally, Alternative #3 calls for monitoring the progress of the project, an activity that is essential to the success of the endeavor.

TCWP's comments, in addition to supporting the Preferred Alternative #3, pointed out that sediment, a most important enemy of mussel survival, may actually be on the increase in the BSF-NRRRA owing to OHV use and horseback riding. These activities cause erosion of vulnerable soil and stream-channel instability triggered by undesignated or improperly constructed stream crossings, thus negating any mussel-recovery efforts. NPS is currently seeking funding to study options for reducing horse-mussel conflict, and implementation of the General Management Plan may eventually reduce OHV impacts. Both of these will take time, however. Therefore our comments strongly urged that NPS enforce interim restrictions on OHV use and on stream crossings by horses so that the effort and expense of the mussel recovery program not be wasted.

The finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the mussel recovery program was signed by the NPS's Regional Director on December 3. Alternative #3, was selected for implementation. The signing of the FONSI means the agency can now implement the program with its partners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the states of Tennessee and Kentucky.

### C. *Fire-management Plan for Big South Fork NRRRA*

NPS has released a Fire Management Plan and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Big South Fork NRRRA. Three alternatives are considered, with the Preferred one being B. Alternative B proposes to "suppress all wildland fires and use management-ignited prescribed fire to achieve resource objectives."

Fire-dependent or fire-adapted ecosystems have been identified. NPS was unable, however, to carry out prescribed burns because the BSF-NRRRA did not have a Fire Management Plan.

Fire has been recognized as a tool in achieving various management objectives, including,

- restoration of native wildlife and plant communities by controlling exotic species,
  - restoration of habitat for rare species,
  - maintenance of historic or cultural landscapes,
  - reduction of hazardous fuel accumulations.
- The average annual targeted acreage for prescribed burns would be 800 acres, including,
- 500 for hazard fuel reduction
  - 200 for ecological restoration & exotic species control
  - 100 for cultural landscape management

All unwanted and undesirable wildland fires will be suppressed in order to:

- protect the public
- check fire spread onto private property
- protect natural and cultural resources of the Area.

In carrying out fire suppression, the use of OHVs and heavy equipment will be limited unless approved by the Superintendent. Adverse impact to water resources will be avoided.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Copies of the Plan and EA are available at [www.nps.gov/biso](http://www.nps.gov/biso) by clicking the Fire Management Plan link, or by calling 423-569-9778. Comments, due by February 13, can be e-mailed to [biso\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:biso_information@nps.gov), or mailed (postmarked by Feb. 6) to Big South Fork NKA, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida, TN 37841.

#### D. Obed climbing study

The National Park Service (NPS) completed its Climbing Management Plan in July 2002 (NL247 ¶2E), but it commissioned a subsequent study better to understand the impact of rock climbing on cliff-dwelling plant and animal species as the basis for decisions to be made concerning bolted sports-climbing routes. Currently, about 300 such routes exist in about 2.2 miles of climbed cliff line (mostly on lower Clear Creek), with a moratorium on any new routes pending outcome of the study.

Field work, which has been conducted by Emily Parisher with the assistance of William Farrell, has been completed, and a report was expected by the end of December. Parisher has found that several of the cliff-dwelling plants in the Obed WSR are relics of the last ice age, having migrated in front of the advancing glaciers and finding refuge on the cliffs as the ice receded. In her explorations, Parisher also found red cedars that are at least 900 years old.

## 2. AROUND THE STATE

### A. Federal appropriations

#### for Tennessee land acquisitions

The Interior Appropriations bill that was signed November 10, though very meager on land-acquisition funds overall (¶7E, below), does contain money for several projects in our state. From the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the only National Park Service proposal in Tennessee to receive any money was the Obed WSR (¶1A, above). LWCF money for other agencies went to:

- the Lower Hatchie Wildlife Refuge (in West TN), \$1.8 million;
- the Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge (in West TN), \$750,000;
- the Cherokee National Forest/Rocky Fork "Tennessee Mountains" appropriation was \$3.8 million.

Under the Forest Legacy Program, administered by the US Forest Service, two tracts in Tennessee were partially funded:

- Jim Creek, near Pickett, purchased in May 2001 by The Nature Conservancy (NL238 ¶2A; NL239 ¶4A) which will thus be partially reimbursed, \$38,000;
- The Ray/Gettelfinger Tract (between Rugby and BSF – NL252 ¶2B), \$994,000.

### B. Legislative priorities

#### chosen by TCV member groups

Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) is the lobbying arm of the Tennessee environmental movement. A few months ago, TCV polled their member organizations (including TCWP) about legislation they would like to see supported during the next session of the Tennessee General Assembly (NL253 ¶2G). Responses from 9 member organizations have now been tabulated. Four of almost 20 possible items received 4 or more votes and will thus presumably be chosen as lobby subjects. Three of these 4 items were among TCWP's top choices, namely, bills to

- restore and expand land-acquisition funds (¶2C, this NL)
- prohibit cross-ridge mining (¶3A and 3B, this NL)
- expand or reconstitute the composition of environmental boards

Among the 4 runners-up, which had received three votes each, were two of TCWP's top choices, namely,

- a bill to make State Parks more politically and strategically independent (by one of two possible routes)
- a comprehensive forestry bill that would require certification of loggers, best management practices, and comprehensive impact studies of proposed cuts.

The new legislative session (the second half of the 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly) begins January 13. Hopefully there will not be so much need for defensive actions as to preclude a proactive legislative agenda.

#### C. No news on acquisition funds

Last year, to balance the budget, the Brede- sen administration requested a cross-the-board cut of 9% for most functions of state government. In a totally disproportionate proposal, however, it requested a 100% and permanent diversion into the general fund of the real-estate transfer tax whose dedicated purpose is land acquisition for conservation. Only considerable effort by conservation leaders eventually succeeded in reducing the cut from 100% to 79% and in keeping the diversion to 4 years instead of making it permanent (NL252 §2C).

During the 2003 legislative session, conservation leaders met with Gov. Bredesen, who stated his intent to restore the acquisition funds as quickly as money became available. In June, Tennessee Conservation Voters wrote to the governor to point out that some unrestricted federal funds would soon be coming to each state as part of the federal tax-cut package, and requesting that a portion of this windfall be used to restore the acquisition funding for the next two years. No substantive response has been received by TCV to date.

#### D. ATV traffic on state lands

[Contributed by Frank Hensley]

There has been a statewide move to limit damaging all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and similar "off-road" traffic on state lands. In State Forests, the Department has placed signs that inform such vehicles where they can travel, and warning them of fines and loss of property if they use roads that are off limits. In the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, TWRA has banned such vehicles except when used by people with a valid hunting permit during managed hunts.

Private efforts, too, have had excellent results in the area generally west of Pickett where private land acquisition for conservation purposes has been in progress (NL240 §2A; NL241 §5). Thanks to construction of fences and a gate by

Charlie Burger and helpers (NL250 §5F), all motorized traffic through the Tally wilderness, Dobbs Creek, and Chimney Rock areas has been stopped. All of these areas are now free of litter, and the Smoke House Cavern, which used to be full of beer cans and other trash, is completely clear.

#### E. Dam re-licensing may lead to protection of pristine lands

The watersheds of the Little Tennessee and Cheoah Rivers include pristine, undeveloped, and highly scenic lands, southwest of the Smokies, that serve as a wildlife corridor—particularly for black bears—between the park and the Cherokee National Forest. Tapco, Inc., the power company that operates four dams on the Cheoah and Little Tennessee mainly for the benefit of Alcoa Aluminum, has been engaged in a controversial renewal of its dam license with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The Tennessee Clean Water Network, TCWN, in the course of implementing its Little Tennessee Watershed Protection Campaign, has been a catalyst in achieving an "agreement in principle" on the re-licensing process. The potential consequences of implementing this agreement would include permanent protection for over 10,000 acres. For more information go to [www.tcwn.org](http://www.tcwn.org)

#### F. Proposed new Natural Areas with roots in Oak Ridge Reservation

The two areas are Campbell Bend, 30 acres, and Crowder Cemetery, 20 acres, both once a part of a larger (1,200-acre) natural area complex that previously had been included in the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) before being sold to the Boeing Corp in the mid 1980s. This complex had been one of seven ORR Registered State Natural Areas. In the late 1990s, the Boeing land was sold to Rarity Ridge Development, which donated conservation easements for 50 (i.e., 30+20) acres to the State—the sole remnant of the original 1,200-acre Registered State Natural Area.

Both of the tracts harbor oak barrens communities, rare in the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province. Among the numerous plant species found there are several rare state-listed ones.

#### G. Tennessee hosts one of largest crane populations

The Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge near Dayton hosts one of the largest populations of Sandhill

Cranes in the World. Flocks that nest primarily in Great Lakes States or Canada migrate through Tennessee to their wintering grounds; but in the past few years (global warming?), over 10,000 Sandhill Cranes have stopped to winter in the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. They are occasionally joined by one or two Whooping Cranes.

The number of cranes in the Refuge peaks in January and February. Fine new facilities for crane viewing have been installed on the Refuge Grounds, and the best time to see huge numbers of the birds is at dusk or daybreak as flocks arrive at or depart from their night roosting grounds on Hiwassee Island. Waterfowl and eagles (Bald and Golden) can also be seen.

A special weekend is dedicated for naturalists and Native American groups to present programs and exhibits about cranes, local history, and related subjects at the Birchwood School from which shuttle buses depart to the crane-viewing area. Check the calendar (§11, below) for details.

#### **H. Tennesseans polled on environment**

In a recent statewide poll commissioned by 4 environmental organizations and conducted by U.T., 70% and 65%, respectively, of Tennesseans said that they were very concerned about water and air pollution. About 30% said that Pres. Bush has done a poor job in protecting air quality, while only 14.3% gave him a "good" or "excellent" mark. There was, however, much ignorance about the performances of Senators Frist and Alexander and of Gov. Bredeesen. In each case more than 25% of those polled did not know how the man had performed in protecting air quality. Complete poll results may be viewed at [www.cleantennessee.org](http://www.cleantennessee.org).

### **3. MINING DEVASTATION**

#### **A. Mountaintop removal nationwide:**

##### **EPA gives it the green light**

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Mountaintop removal is a particularly brutal form of strip mining that has been used in Appalachia to blast hundreds of feet off the tops of mountains to gain access to thin coal seams (NL253 §3A). Forests are leveled and wildlife habitat is destroyed. Millions of tons of rock and soil from the obliterated mountain tops are pushed into valleys, causing further devastation, including burial of the vital headwaters of rivers. Estimates cite 700 to 1200 miles of rivers have already been buried or otherwise damaged by

mountaintop removal. To see high-resolution photos of massive mountaintop removal operation in progress, visit this site by the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition:

[http://www.ohvec.org/galleries/mountaintop\\_removal/007/index.html](http://www.ohvec.org/galleries/mountaintop_removal/007/index.html)

In May, EPA released a long-overdue DEIS that was required by a 1998 legal settlement and was supposed to evaluate alternatives to mitigate the impacts of mountaintop removal mining. The DEIS fell far short of that goal. Instead, the Administration not only proposed that this type of mining continue but offered steps for accelerating the permitting process. All three alternatives identified would eliminate a 25-year-old rule that prohibits mining impacts within 100 ft of streams. Substituted would be the ultra-weak requirement to prevent damage to streams "to the extent possible, using the best technology currently available."

Many thanks to members who responded to TCWP's electronic action alert and sent individual comments in time for the January-6 deadline. TCWP submitted comments on behalf of our organization, pointing out the inadequacy of the EIS to address issues of water-quality degradation, hardwood forest destruction, and impacts to wildlife, including bird conservation concerns.

This is the second time the Bush Administration has greased the skids for mountaintop removal. Last May, they issued a rule that eliminated a Corps of Engineers ban on mine waste in waterways.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge Tennessee Governor Phil Bredeesen to stop this devastating type of mining in Tennessee. (Contact information on p.2).

#### **B. Mountaintop removal in Tennessee: SOCM brings about jurisdictional change for Zeb Mtn. mine**

[Based on a contribution by Tiffany Hartung, SOCM]

Early in July, federal and state permits were issued for the cross-ridge mining of three peaks of Zeb Mountain in Campbell County (NL253 §3A). Cross-ridge mining is a variation of Mountaintop Removal, with essentially the same effects. Subsequently, SOCM (Save Our Cumberland Mountains) asked the Army Corps of Engineers to make a determination independent of that of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC). At issue was TDEC's definition of what portions of an area stream, Dan Branch, should be defined as "waters of the state" (which require a certain level of protection from the

state). The definition is dependent on whether a stream flows year-round, and local SOCM members can testify to the fact that Dan Branch does, from way upon the mountain. Late this October, the Corps announced their decision to extend federal jurisdiction an additional 75 feet above what had been TDEC's determination for Dan Branch!

The permit issued in July allowed the Robert Clear Coal Company to mine through everything above TDEC's original, erroneously low, determination. According to local reports, TDEC officials had written their field notes concerning Dan Branch on the back of a map that belonged to Robert Clear Coal Company and returned it to the coal company.

At the end of November, SOCM members met with Governor Bredesen's staff about the Zeb Mountain mine. One week later, TDEC issued its first notice of violation to the Robert Clear Coal Company for polluting Dan Branch! No monetary penalty was imposed, however, and four environmental groups sent notice of intent to sue. They also asked TDEC Commissioner Betsy Child to stop the mining until the mining company can demonstrate that no further pollution will occur. TDEC then ordered the Robert Clear Coal Co. to submit a revised drainage-control and treatment plan by January 2.

SOCM members are continuing to dialogue with the Governor's office and to monitor the mine.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Send a strong message to Governor Bredesen (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; or visit [www.socm.org](http://www.socm.org).

sage of the 1977 Act), and it would not have given priorities to sites causing environmental damage.

Even under the AML provisions currently in effect, Tennessee has been a double stepchild. First, nationwide allocation of the money is based on current production, while most of Tennessee's production was in the past. Second, Tennessee does not have regulatory primacy (having switched from a state to a federal enforcement program about 2 decades ago), which radically diminishes the amount of AML funding for which it is eligible. Yet, the state has identified 283 "problem areas," with some containing as many as 15 abandoned mines. Most of these pre-1977 mines are on the Cumberland Plateau, most cause bad environmental problems, and many threaten the health and safety of nearby residents. With current AML funding of less than \$1.5 million annually, it would take the state 25 years to clean up these numerous orphan mines.

Rep. Lincoln Davis (D, TN-4) has said that he will work for a stand-alone bill this year. He needs our encouragement and the help of the rest of the Tennessee delegation. A Senate bill is also needed.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact Rep. Lincoln Davis and your own Representative, as well as Senators Frist and Alexander (addresses on p.2), and urge them to introduce and support a bill that would extend the life of the Abandoned Mine Lands Program, with its current funding source, but giving Tennessee a fairer share.

#### 4. CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

##### A. 4-Lane highway proposed through prime habitat

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick.]

The Tennessee Dept. of Transportation (TDOT) has prepared a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for relocation of the section of U.S. Highway 64 that currently runs through the Ocoee River Gorge. Many people who are familiar with the winding, narrow road through the beautiful Ocoee gorge recognize the need for improved safety and emergency access during high-use periods. The beauty and outstanding recreational value of this area have contributed to increased tourism and congestion, especially during major recreational events. Shoulders are narrow or non-existent, and some sections are heavily used by pedestrians. Commercial trucks constitutes a substantial fraction of the traffic.

##### C. Abandoned Mine Lands (AML): bad legislation stopped; good legislation needed

There is an urgent need to extend the life of the AML (Abandoned Mine Lands) program that was initiated by the 1977 Surface Mining Act but is slated to end in 2004 (NL253 ¶3B). A bill providing for such an extension was attached to the controversial Energy Bill (see ¶7A, this NL), but was so bad in other respects that proponents of extension managed to get it removed. The bill would have cut AML's funding source (namely, a small tax on the revenues from coal mining that has occurred, and is continuing to occur, since pas-

While TCWP recognizes the inadequacy of the current system, we are alarmed at the destructive potential of the EIS's preferred alternatives. Transportation "solutions" should not be allowed to destroy the natural resources that essentially created their need.

The recommended alternatives in the EIS are "build" options, with both proposed routes cutting a four-lane, interstate-style highway through the Cherokee National Forest north of the Ocoee River gorge. Serious concerns have been raised with the project plans for these routes, including habitat fragmentation, inadequate mitigation for loss of habitat and ecological function, lack of consideration of long-term impacts of interstate-style access, and potential catastrophic pollution of streams from acid-bearing, pyritic shales. In Tennessee, we have a number of painful examples of botched, mountainous-area road construction projects that have resulted in irreparable devastation of sensitive streams and gross violation of environmental laws. Clearly, more creative alternatives and more effective mitigation measures are needed.

Two hearings by TDOT (January 5 and 6) will be over by the time you receive this NL, but there is still time for written comments (see Action Box, below). We need to document strong opposition to the two "build" alternatives and request that TDOT work with other agencies and organizations to formulate better alternatives.

The following are talking points (with thanks to TWRA for some of this material):

1. The proposed "build" alternatives would significantly fragment and degrade one of the South's last and most critical undeveloped forested habitats. Deleterious effects on wildlife populations, including the black bear, would be permanent. The draft EIS fails to adequately consider this damage.

2. The draft EIS fails to adequately address the long-term impacts (e.g., logging, mining, oil/gas extraction) of providing interstate-style access to this wild area.

3. Catastrophic impacts to high-quality trout streams would be likely. The proposed construction area is steep and rugged, and acid-bearing pyritic shales are common. The project terrain has been characterized by one of TDOT's construction consultants as among "the most difficult in the world." Sedimentation and acid leachate from similar highway construction projects (e.g., Tellico-Robinsville Road, Foothills Parkway, I-181 in Unicoi County) have resulted in environmental degradation for which no practical remedy exists. While the draft EIS promises measures during the design phase to avoid

and mitigate damage, this assurance is thin, decisions at that time will be dominated by cost considerations, effectiveness of new measures is unproven over time, and enforcement mechanisms are largely ineffective.

4. Potential impacts on the state-protected Tennessee dace, a small species with brilliant spawning colors, are devastating. The Tennessee dace occurs in at least four of the impacted streams, and the population in these four streams accounts for half of all known populations of this species in the world. According to the draft EIS, "This species could be adversely affected by this project to the point where federal listing could be warranted." Protection from impacts of this project relies entirely on TDOT's promises to mitigate damage during design phase (as in #3, above).

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Written statements are due by January 15. You may wish to express strong opposition to the two "build" alternatives and request that TDOT work with other agencies and organizations to formulate better alternatives. You can e-mail comments to [charles.bush@state.tn.us](mailto:charles.bush@state.tn.us), or mail them to Charles Bush, Environmental Planning and Permits, Suite 900, J.K. Polk, 505 Deaderick, Nashville, TN 37243-0443.

The draft EIS can be found on TDOT's web site: <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/information-office/projects.htm> (Other Projects.) The project is identified as "No. 70004-1282-64, Appalachian Development Highway System Corridor K (Relocated U.S. 64)."

## B. Whistle blower earns award

[Information contributed by Glenn Marshall]

Land-use plan revisions are currently in the works for national forests (containing almost 3 million acres) in 5 southern states. Underlying these plans, which will govern management for the next 10-15 years, is the US Forest Service's long-standing assertion that large-scale logging and prescribed burns are needed to restore the southern forests to the natural conditions that generate an "early successional" forest.

However, the work of a scientist at the Cherokee NF has recently cast serious doubt on this rationale. Quentin Bass, a 21-year veteran of the USFS, marshaled convincing evidence from archival material that the natural state of the Southern Appalachian forests is a stable ecosystem dominated by tall, old trees (NL252 ¶4A).

In September, the Wilderness Society presented Quentin Bass with the Margaret (Mardie)



and Olaus Murie Award in recognition of his willingness to challenge USFS's management proposals for Southern Appalachian national forests.

The Wilderness Society also presented three Environmental Hero Awards. One of these went to a long-term friend of TCWP's, Hugh Irwin, now a Conservation Planner for SAFC (Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition), who has done much to get wilderness areas designated in the Cherokee NF.

## 5. SMOKIES ISSUES

### A. North Shore Road:

#### **keep advocating appropriation needed for a cash settlement**

While a lot of recent happenings might lead us into believing that the battle against the North Shore Road has just about been won, we would be foolish to forget the devious and powerful arsenal of Rep. Charles Taylor (R-NC) who, most recently, managed to finesse the Ravensford tract transfer (NL253 4A, and 5B, this NL). Taylor, who got the latest North Shore Road construction push underway by quietly attaching \$16 million to a must-pass appropriations bill late in 2000 (NL236 13A), is continuing to work all angles for the road, including garnering support from fellow Congressmen.

It is therefore doubly important that you convince your own Congressman (plus any others you might have contact with) of the need and justice for a cash settlement for Swain County in lieu of the disastrous road. Here are some points to mention.

- The road, which would invade the largest roadless area of mountain terrain east of the Mississippi, would be an environmental disaster and a major expense (probably >\$150 million) for the US taxpayer (NL240 13C; NL247 16).
- Since 1980, the National Park Service's position has been to settle the claims arising from the 1943 agreement through a cash settlement to Swain County in lieu of a road. (The 1943 agreement concerned compensation for the flooding of a road by Fontana Reservoir.)
- Both the Swain County, NC, Commission and the Bryson City Board of Aldermen have recently passed resolutions supporting a cash settlement in lieu of the road.
- NC Governor Easley sent a letter to Interior Secretary Gale Norton in support of a cash settlement.

- Senators Alexander (R-TN) and Edwards (D-NC) have come out in favor of the cash settlement (in lieu of the road).
- \$16 million (minus about \$4 million for NPS's ongoing NEPA process for the road) is already available to pay toward the cash settlement. The more expeditiously the settlement is enacted, the less of the \$16 million would be wasted on the road EIS.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact your Congressman and Senators (addresses on p. 2) and let them know some of the reasons given above why they should support a cash settlement to Swain County in lieu of the North Shore Road, which would cost more than three times as much. It's time to lay this issue to rest once and for all!

### B. Ravensford: a done deal

As we had feared (NL253 4A), Rep. Charles Taylor's (R-NC), who chairs the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, managed to attach HR1409, the EBCI Land Exchange Act, to the Interior Appropriations bill. While not in the Senate version, the Ravensford provision was still in the Interior Appropriations bill when this was signed into law on November 10. Toremind yourself of why this is very bad news indeed, see NL252 13B.

Judge Gary Wade, in his capacity as president of Friends of the Smokies, wrote that the National Park Service had failed to protect and preserve the park by not protesting the trade. Sen. Alexander was one of few elected representatives who made "private mutterings," wrote Wade, and the local NPS provided "grumbings," but that was all. The Park Service's ongoing NEPA process has obviously been preempted in the face of this done deal.

### C. Appropriations for the Smokies

The Interior Appropriations Act for FY04 (§7E, below) included some operations/maintenance and some construction funds for the Gt. Smoky Mountains National Park. In the first category were \$200,000 from an administration request for maintaining historic structures ("including 77 pioneer log cabins, gristmills, and over 100 historic structures"), and a \$500,000 Congressional add-on for "improvements to comfort stations and North Shore Cemetery." Construction funds of \$525,000 were appropriated to rehabilitate comfort stations and picnic areas.

### D. Coalition to meet

The Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition will meet January 24 to discuss the North Shore

Road, Highway 321, air pollution, Elkmont, and other issues (including a post mortem on Ravensford). See Calendar (§11, below) for time and place.

## 6. TVA

### A. TVA's Heritage Program must not be weakened

A very important position in TVA's Heritage Program was vacated in early December when Nancy Fraley left to join the National Park Service where she heads the Exotic Plant Management Team Liaison for the Southeast Region (Big South Fork and Obed will be among her NPS units). Among Nancy's many responsibilities at TVA had been natural areas and Small Wild Areas (SWAs). TCWP had many fruitful interactions with her on the White's Creek SWA and on other TVA tracts we hope to get designated as a SWAs (NL246 §2B).

At the time Nancy's predecessor Judith Bartlow left TVA in the summer of 2000, there were moves within the agency to abolish her position and distribute some of its functions among the separate Watershed Teams. We eventually succeeded in convincing TVA that an Agency-wide advocate for natural-heritage protection was essential. Once again, the integrity of the position may be in jeopardy. TCWP will shortly be interacting with TVA on this issue.

### B. White's Creek Small Wild Area receiving TCWP care

[Contributed by Frank Hensley]

Right after the New Year, a TCWP team (Mary Lynn Dobson, Ralph Harvey, and Frank Hensley), checked out and re-blazed the Whites Creek Trail and found it in generally good condition. They also re-routed the part of the trail that runs through the contiguous 47 acres of former Bowater property that was acquired by TCWP last year for addition to the Whites Creek SWA (NL251 §6A; NL252 §8). The upper portion of that trail will, at least for now, have to continue being located on an old logging road which grows up in briars and undergrowth and will have to be cleared twice each year (we'll call for volunteers). Frank is making a new trail map.

Just upstream (north) of the Whites Creek SWA, and separated from it only by a TWRA boat ramp, is TVA tract #78 that extends along 1+ mile of shoreline and contains ~90 acres. TCWP has requested that this tract also receive SWA status and has offered to develop and maintain a

trail through it (NL246 §2B). TCWP is now in process of submitting an estimate to TVA on the work required to construct such a trail. The major tasks is to construct steps leading from the boat ramp down the steep bank to the beginning of the trail.

### C. Energy Bill may threaten nature of TVA

Among the numerous provisions of the atrocious Energy Bill, which has, at least, been stalled in the Senate (§7A, below), is one that would expand the TVA Board from three directors to nine plus a CEO. In some quarters this is viewed as a provision that could lead to disension and break-up, paving the way to privatization. It is perhaps even more significant that TVA is part of the Energy Bill in the first place, because the Agency's functions should go much beyond power production. In addition to (and implicit in) the charter objectives of flood control, navigation, and economic improvement for the Valley, TVA's mission includes shoreline management, watershed and water-quality protection, stewardship of public lands, and other vital functions. The Congressional delegations from the TVA Area, and especially the TVA Congressional Caucus, must not forget this broader mission.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact Sen. Alexander (info on p.2), chairman of the TVA Congressional Caucus, and urge him to protect the totality of TVA's mission (highly valued by Valley citizens), not merely power production.

### D. Status of Reservoir Op. Study

With extensive public input having been obtained (NL252 §5A) and state-of-the-art computer models having been developed, the project is currently identifying a preferred operating alternative for the Final Environmental Impact Statement. The FEIS is to be released this winter, and the Board will announce its decision early in the year.

## 7. THE DIRE NATIONAL NEWS

### A. Energy bill needs to be killed

The energy bill was fortunately stalled in the Senate at the end of 2003. Even though this bill does not propose drilling in the Arctic Refuge, it has so many abysmal provisions that it deserves to be killed outright.

While you have undoubtedly learned about some of its provisions from news accounts, here are a few of the bill's features that have not been widely publicized.

- All public lands, including national parks, would be opened to the construction of electricity transmission lines.
- Oil and gas development would be established as the dominant use of federal publiclands.
- Oil, gas, and coal industries would be exempt from key components of the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act.
- The Clean Air Act would be amended to extend deadlines by which metropolitan areas must meet ozone levels.
- A large subsidy would be given for so-called "clean-coal" technologies, which are cleaner than older retrofitted plants and which generate more CO<sub>2</sub> and mercury.
- No meaningful fuel economy standards are included.
- No significant reductions of "greenhouse gases" are required.
- No renewable electricity-generating sources are required.

When we wrote to Senator Alexander urging him to oppose the bill, he responded: "I am disappointed that a filibuster is stopping passage of an energy bill that would contribute to stabilizing energy prices and developing new sources of energy while protecting our environment and natural resources." He needs to hear some of the facts.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact both your Senators (see p.2) and urge their opposition to the terrible energy bill. They need to know some of the facts (see article)

## B. Tongass NF is being violated

Alaska's Tongass, the nation's largest rational forest, is ecologically unique—it's our only temperate rainforest and home to much important wildlife. On December 23, the Administration put the Tongass under an indefinite "temporary" exemption from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The decision was made public on the eve of the Christmas holiday, following the pattern of various past Administration announcements of anti-environmental decisions. Almost all of these have been made late Fridays or at the start of holidays, the objective being that such timing should generate much less media attention and public outcry.

The Administration justified its action as a necessary tonic for southeast Alaska's depressed economy. In fact, it was a Christmas gift to the

timber industry and totally unjustifiable from economic or other points of view (see below).

Clear cutting has already stripped the Tongass of a half million acres of old-growth trees. For this new proposal, the Forest Service (USFS) deceptively announced that logging would be allowed on only 300,000 acres of the Tongass, or 3% of the 9.6 million roadless acres. These 300,000 acres, however, include the forest's biological heart—its most valuable watersheds, most of its oldest trees, and an extraordinary collection of wildlife. Furthermore, the acreage is not all in one place; it is distributed among some 50 different logging projects, to be connected by new roads that would further violate the integrity of 2.5 million acres of the forest.

This devastation of one of the nation's greatest natural treasures is unjustifiable for a number of additional reasons. Here are a few.

- Market demand for Tongass timber is at an all-time low. Three major corporate users of wood products (Staples, KB Homes, Hayward Lumber) have opposed exemption to the Roadless Rule, noting that so much wood is on the market already that they don't need timber from the Tongass. They will not buy wood logged there. (Thank them!)
- The Tongass recreation industry creates over 5 times as many jobs as the timber industry. More than 450 gun clubs urged the USFS to safeguard the "world-class hunting and fishing resources and remarkable Alaskan wild country"
- The USFS annually loses \$35 million underwriting road building and logging in the Tongass.
- Government science panels have shown that significant wildlife populations will be put at risk by this high level of clearcut logging.
- Over 250,000 comments on the proposal of Roadless Rule exemption for Alaska's forests, virtually all in favor of retaining protections for the Tongass. (This is on top of the 1.7 million comments on the Roadless Rule in general.)

## C. The broader assault on the Roadless Rule

Soon after Bush took office, the Roadless Rule (NL23674A) was challenged in court by the timber industry and 6 states, but it was upheld by a Court of Appeals. The Administration then decided to move administratively to dismantle the rule, and their chief henchman is Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Rey, a former timber lobbyist.

What happened on the Tongass (17B, above) is only the first step. The USFS is a-

ready planning an exemption for Alaska's Chugach, the nation's second largest national forest. Rey has also suggested that governors be given powers to remove protection from national forests located in their states on a case-by-case basis. This would give a handful of state officials power over federal lands that belong to all Americans!

#### **D. 2003, A bad year for forests: the "Healthy Forest Initiative"**

By cleverly exploiting the public fear of fire the Administration managed to inflict long-lasting damage to the public's forests, through both a regulatory and legislative agenda (NL253 ¶¶8). New regulations were adopted in May that promote large-scale logging on huge acreages (far distant from communities) without any environmental review or right of public appeal. Then, on October 30, after a temporary reprieve, a bill encompassing the Administration's "Healthy Forest Initiative" was passed by the Congress. Touted as a "wildfire bill," it falls short of protecting human communities, while providing windfall opportunities to the timber industry for logging big growth in environmentally sensitive ecosystems, and, most significantly, while weakening bedrock environmental safeguards and long-standing judicial protections.

All along, environmental organizations had pointed out that this bill was not accomplishing what should be its first goal – the protection of people's lives and homes. Thanks to their input, however, the bill was altered before passage to ensure that at least half the federal monies would go to the protection of communities instead of to logging companies.

#### **E. Interior Appropriations Act and the national park system**

The Interior Appropriations bill covers several agencies (not all under the Dept. of Interior). Items in the bill, signed November 10, that will pay toward acquisition of Tennessee lands are summarized in ¶1A and 2A, above. Below, we list amounts appropriated for one agency, the National Park Service nationwide, in three categories.

Category	FY04 approp. (in \$ millions)	Change from FY03
Operations	1,619.1	+ 3.5%
Construction	331.8	+ 1.8%
Land acquis.	141.4	- 17.5%

The low overall increase in operations funding for an already impoverished Park Service is very disappointing. Only 53 NPS units received any increases at all, among them the Great Smoky Mountains NP (¶5C, above). Because of Interior Subcommittee Chairman Charles Taylor's categorical opposition to government land acquisition, there was an overall big decrease (17.5%) from last year's already very low funding levels. Only 16 National Park System projects nationwide were approved ... but the Obed was one of these, at \$750,000 (see ¶1A, above).

Money spent on parks is not wasted. On the contrary, an NPCA study recently found that visitors to national parks spent \$10.6 billion a year, supporting 212,000 jobs. With respect to annual visitor spending, the Smokies are in second place.

#### **8. AND NOW SOME GOOD NEWS!**

#### **A. Administration attack on Clean Air Act halted -- at least for now**

[Within put from Jeanette Berry]

The New Source Review (NSR) section of the Clean Air Act requires aging coal-fired power plants to install modern controls when they increase their pollution emissions. Old plants had been grandfathered in, i.e., they were exempt from pollution controls as long as they only underwent "routine maintenance." However, over the years, power companies were making major modifications -- and labeling these "routine maintenance" -- without installing controls.

A year ago, EPA proposed to effectively do away with the New Source Review by changing the definitions. (TCWP sent a letter in August protesting these proposed changes.) This rule change, which exempted more than 17,000 of the country's largest polluting facilities, was to have gone into effect in late December. It was, however, blocked at the last moment by a lawsuit brought by 12 states, numerous cities (including New York, Washington, and San Francisco), and several organizations (NRDC, Amer. Lung Assn., etc.) which charged that serious damage to the environment and to public health would result. A three-judge panel blocked EPA's rule change from taking effect until this legal challenge could be heard. The judge ruled that the challengers had demonstrated "likelihood of success" (i.e., a sound chance of winning their case) and "irreparable harm" if the regulations were to take effect. (The EPA itself had estimated that full en-

enforcement of existing NSR rules on power plant pollution would save 19,000 lives per year.)

"This is an enormously important victory that halts the Bush administration efforts to eviscerate the Clean Air Act," said New York State attorney general, Eliot Spitzer. It is not the end of the struggle, but the rule change is at least suspended for several months until the case is adjudicated. If the challengers win, the rule will be struck down as nonconforming with the Clean Air Act. In the meantime, as one of the plaintiffs said, the court had "forced EPA to take back its early Christmas present to the coal-fired power plants in the Midwest."

## **B. Administration attack on Clean Water Act halted -- at least partly**

In January 2002, the Bush Administration began the process of changing rules under the Clean Water Act so as to withdraw protection from waters that are "isolated," non-navigable, and contained wholly within a state. EPA and the Corps of Engineers were instructed not to enforce the Clean Water Act for these waters without first seeking permission from headquarters. Even outside Alaska, up to 20 million acres of wetlands would be affected.

Another attack was embodied in a proposed rule change that would withdraw protection from the following waters: streams that do not flow for more than six months of the year and are not fed by groundwater; streams created by snowmelt or rainfall; waters that generate interstate commerce through bird-watching, hunting and fishing and other recreation; waters used for industrial purposes; and waters that provide habitat to endangered species. No permits would be required to dredge, fill or dump waste into these waters.

There was public outrage, negative press, and pressure from 39 state governments; 218 members of the House of Representatives (including 26 Republicans) sent an official letter to President Bush urging him to drop the plan. Then, on December 16, EPA Administrator Leavitt announced that the administration was abandoning the effort to change the rules.

While a great victory, it may be only a partial one because the Administration has not withdrawn the January 2002 directive summarized in the first paragraph of this article.

## **C. Snowmobile phase-out reinstated**

After years of thorough study of the environmental and health effects of snowmobile use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks,

the National Park Service (NPS) during the Clinton years formulated a plan to phase out this use over the course of three years and to substitute multi-passenger snow-coaches for the transport of winter visitors. The snowmobile industry sued to block the phase-out plan, and the Bush Administration withdrew it, with the excuse that newer snowmobiles, which have quieter and less-polluting engines, had not been part of it. This turns out not to have been the case; the less-polluting machines were, in fact, considered and rejected when NPS (during the Clinton Administration) was deciding how to reduce the harmful effects of snowmobiling.

NPS, now operating under the Bush rules, was set to open Yellowstone and Teton snowmobiles on December 17. But on December 16, U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan, calling the Bush plan "completely politically driven" ruled that NPS must reinstate the original phase-out plan because NPS "is bound by a conservation mandate and that mandate trumps all other considerations." This does not mean an immediate end to snowmobile use, but a return to the phase-out that was in progress under the Clinton rules. This winter, 490 and 50 per day will be permitted in Yellowstone and Teton, respectively, and the snow coaches are already in operation for other visitors. Under the Bush rules, there would have been 950 and 400 snowmobiles, respectively.

There was widespread praise for Judge Sullivan's decision, especially from prominent NPS veterans, and especially in light of the fact that Yellowstone is our first National Park (designated 1872) and should embody the National Park ideal. Here are a few quotes. "Had we let that principle slip in Yellowstone to benefit the snowmobile industry, it would have set a terrible precedent in all our national parks." "This [Sullivan's] ruling ... will be a huge morale boost for men and women who wear the Park Service uniform. ... The Administration had placed the fundamental mission of the Park Service in doubt -- today that shadow has been lifted." "This struggle was not against Americans who like their snowmobiles, but rather against the notion that anything goes in the national parks. ... We will find room for snowmobiles, but just as important room without them, which is the enduring greatness of the national parks." A local resident, and guide to the parks, said that the judge's ruling was good (not bad) for the local economy: people visit Yellowstone because of its special features, which will now be protected.

We cannot rest yet. The snowmobile industry has already announced it will appeal reinstatement of the phase-out, and Congress may de-

cide to try to legislatively reverse or modify Judge Sullivan's decision.

## 9. THIS IS ELECTION YEAR

### A. Inform yourself, and VOTE

Elections start very soon in Tennessee. Early voting for the February-10 primary starts on January 21. We certainly hope that you VOTE, and that you will strongly consider each candidate's knowledge, experience, and past performance on environmental matters when you cast your vote.

A highly informative source from which to get your information is the website of the non-partisan League of Conservation Voters (LCV), <http://www.lcv.org/Campaigns>.

- You can download the complete 2004 Presidential Candidate Profiles (1,264 kb PDF – it's long but if you can't print it, we hope you will read at least some of the excellent information);
- In shorter, tabular, format, you can see how all the candidates stack up (89 kb PDF). You will also find additional links of interest, e.g., the 2003 Presidential Report Card.

### B. Make the environment count

The recent Supreme Court decision affirming the McCain/Feingold Campaign Financing Act was of special significance for the League of Conservation Voters, one of a small number of grassroots organizations classified as "MCFL organizations" because they are issue-focused membership groups that don't take money from corporations. While, in the last 60 days of a general election, almost all organizations are barred from broadcasting political ads paid for with large contributions, MCFL organizations may do so, using individual contributions of any size.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** If you want to use your money to make the environment count in this election, call Wendy Sommer at 202-454-4565, or write LCV, 1920 L Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036.

### C. Beware of spin and greenscam

As you listen to candidates, look behind the words and the photo-ops and try to learn the facts of the issue. Here are a few of the phrases that may be diagnostic of spin.

- "Common-sense approach" is meant to imply that the existing environmental regulation is somehow radical and too strong. Also watch

outfor phrases like "balanced approach," and "safe and healthy."

- "Comprehensive," as a label (e.g., for the energy bill) avoids discussing detail.
- "Scientific uncertainty" as used on issues such as global warming (euphemistically called "climate change") on which there is, in fact, strong consensus of respected scientists.
- "Streamline," as a code word for diminishing public input or eliminating NEPA studies.

### D. A way to reduce campaign expenses

A major way to reduce the expense of acquainting voters with a candidate's views would be the use of free radio and television time. This opportunity would attract new bright and able people to enter politics and would eliminate the potentially corrupting power of financial supporters. Free air time is opposed by broadcasters, who fail to remember that the air waves belong to the people.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Urge Senators Frist and Alexander to support S.1497, the McCain/Feingold/Durbin Our Democracy, Our Airwaves Act." For a summary of the bill, see [www.bettercampaigns.org/freeairtime/factsheet/s/BillSummary.pdf](http://www.bettercampaigns.org/freeairtime/factsheet/s/BillSummary.pdf).

## 10. TCWP NEWS

### A. E-mail to members aids TCWP's effectiveness

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

TCWP uses members' e-mail addresses to distribute action alerts, timely reminders of TCWP activities, and items that just can't wait for the next newsletter. In the past month, for example, TCWP posted act on alerts on our web site ([www.korner.net.org/tcwp/](http://www.korner.net.org/tcwp/)) and sent email notices on mountaintop removal mining (§3A, this NL) and the Highway-64 relocation project (§4A, this NL). If you would like to help us increase TCWP's effectiveness by being added to our email distribution, please send your address to [skgoss@esper.com](mailto:skgoss@esper.com).

### B. Upcoming activities sponsored by the TCWP Service Committee

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Winter Membership Meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 3

Clean water is the topic. Renee Hoyos, new Executive Director of Tennessee Clean Water

Network, will speak on recent assaults on the Clean Water Act (read ¶8B, this NL) and the status of threatened Tennessee waters. Hoyos, a native Californian, worked on a statewide watershed management program for the California Resources Agency. She assumed her current duties with TCWN last October.

The meeting, starting 7:00 p.m. in the Oak Ridge Civic Center Social Room, and followed by refreshments, is free and open to the public. For more information, call 865-522-3809.

#### North Ridge Trail hike, Sunday, February 29

We'll meet at 1:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Children's Museum on West Outer Drive. After arranging an appropriate car shuttle, we'll walk about 3.5 miles of the North Ridge Trail. Wear sturdy shoes and bring rain gear if necessary. For more information, call 865-522-3809.

### **C. Recent activities sponsored by the TCWP Service Committee**

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

#### Fingers Area hike, Saturday, Nov. 8,

About two dozen people met in sunny warm weather on the shores of Watts Bar Reservoir. They came to explore four TVA-owned peninsulas known as the Fingers, where TCWP has proposed a trail. TCWP Board Member and Public Lands Committee Chair Mary Lynn Dobson led the group through wooded areas near the lakeshore, where they enjoyed the beautiful views, saw numerous birds, and had an impromptu lesson on sun chokes or Jerusalem artichokes, courtesy of hikers Glenn and Joanne Marshall.

#### Cedar Barrens workout, Nov. 15,

More than 20 folks came to this registered Natural Area with saws, loppers, and weed wrenches loaned us by TVA. The existing open area received a touch-up on the removal of exotics, and a whole new area of about 100 square feet was cleared.

Cedar barrens are small woodland openings with vegetation similar to that of the Tall Grass Prairie in the Midwest and Great Plains. They require removal of shade providers. In nature, this is most often done by fire. The Oak Ridge Cedar Barren, home to three rare species listed for protection by the state, has a host of volunteers working to keep the prairie grasses in sunlight.

Thanks to Cedar Barren Steward Tim Bigelow, and plant experts Jimmy Croton and Larry Pounds, our group bagged lots of bicolor lespedeza seedpods to prevent winter seeding. We also

dealt with several pesky mimosa trees. Thanks to the City of Oak Ridge for help with trash bags and bag removal.

There will be another clean up next spring. For more information, see our web site at [www.kornet.org/tcwp/](http://www.kornet.org/tcwp/). For a copy of the management plan, call Sandra K. Goss at 865-522-3809.

#### Fellowship, Fun and Food Featured at Holiday Party, December 4

The Annual Holiday Party for the TCWP Membership was a great success, with about 40 people attending. Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen again opened their home to our gathering, and live music was provided by the Wood and Ivory Trio, consisting of bassist Mei Johnson, violinist Nathan Leiby, and pianist James Sullivan. Thanks, Jenny and Bill for your graciousness and hospitality.

### **D. Various recent donations to TCWP**

- Gifts in memory of Bill Russell now total \$2,535. There were 36 donations.
- As a result of being named the October Partner of the Knoxville Community Food Co-op's "First Monday Program" (NL253 8E), TCWP received \$235. The Co-op is a good place to shop.
- The East Tennessee Whitewater Club has donated \$100 to TCWP.

### **E. Capsules**

- Take a look at TCWP web site, [www.kornet.org/tcwp/](http://www.kornet.org/tcwp/). The Action Alerts are striking, with great pictures; and there is a new feature, a Scrapbook with photos of recent activities. Thanks to web master Francis Perey and to Sandra Goss!
- TCWP will have a display at Wilderness Wildlife Week (see Calendar in ¶11, below). Lee Russell and Don Todd will be among the speakers.

## **11. CALENDAR; RESOURCES**

- Events and deadlines calendar (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, [skgoss@esper.com](mailto:skgoss@esper.com))
- January 10-18, "Wilderness Wildlife Week," a program of talks, field trips, slide shows, and exhibits, at Pigeon Forge (¶10A, this NL). For info, call 865-429-7350, or [www.mypigeonforge.com](http://www.mypigeonforge.com).

- January 15, Comment deadline for proposed road through Cherokee NF (§4A, this NL).
  - January 21, Start of early voting for primary election (§9A, this NL).
  - January 24, Greater Smoky Mountains Coalition meeting, 10-5, at the Terrace Hotel (Room 316), Lake Junaluska (contact Gregory Kidd, [skidd@NPCA.ORG](mailto:skidd@NPCA.ORG)). (§5D, this NL).
  - February 3, TCWP meeting on water quality (§10B, this NL).
  - February 7, Crane viewing and Cherokee Indian history, Birchwood School near Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. Call 423.334.5850, or visit [www.southeasttennessee.com](http://www.southeasttennessee.com). (§2G, this NL).
  - February 10, Primary election (§9A, this NL).
  - February 13, Comment deadline for BSFF Fire Management Plan (§1C, this NL).
  - February 26-27, SE Land Trust & Watershed Roundtable, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA. In the past 10 years, the Southeast has lost more forests, farms, and open space to development than any other region of the country. The conference provides the opportunity for networking among land trusts, watershed associations, landowners, and government agencies that seek to preserve our landscape and protect water quality. Contact [kbrice@lta.org](mailto:kbrice@lta.org) or [co@southeastwaterforum.org](mailto:co@southeastwaterforum.org).
  - February 29, TCWP hike on North Ridge Trail (§10B, this NL).
- **Publications and web sites**
- The corporate media in the USA spend less than 4% of their reporting efforts on environmental issues. Ron Castle and friends have started [www.publicvestv.org](http://www.publicvestv.org) to let the public view some of the information that fails to get into the press and the broadcast media. Links are provided to excellent recent articles, e.g., "The Tennessee tree massacre," in the NRDC magazine, and the Robert Kennedy, Jr. "Crimes Against Nature" article from "Rolling Stones." There are documentary videos; more are being planned on the deforestation of Tennessee. For further info, contact Ron Castle, 931-967-2053, or [info@roncastle.com](mailto:info@roncastle.com); [www.roncastle.com](http://www.roncastle.com).
  - "Threats to Our National Parks," published Dec. 1, 2003, is a special report by the National Parks Conservation Association (1300 - 19<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036; 1-800-628-7275).
  - News about Green Power (power generated from non-polluting sources) is now accessible on the web, [www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com). To be notified by e-mail when a new issue of the newsletter is

published, send a message to [greenpowerswitch@tva.com](mailto:greenpowerswitch@tva.com).

- To keep informed on Alaska wilderness and other environmental issues, visit [www.alaskawild.org](http://www.alaskawild.org) (Alaska Wilderness League), or [www.northern.org](http://www.northern.org) (Northern Alaska Environmental Center).
  - "Spirit of the Arctic/Spirit of One," by Andrea Maki, is a calendar of beautiful Arctic Refuge photographs. Contact [amaki@nwlinc.com](mailto:amaki@nwlinc.com).
- **Other resources**
- There are now over 300 businesses that buy Green Power (from non-polluting sources). They deserve our support. To get a list of them, go to [www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com).
  - An interesting M.A. degree in Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies, designed for independent learners, is offered by Goddard College (in Plainfield, VT). Emphasis is on combining action in the world with academic study. Each semester begins with an intensive 8-day residency, after which students work from home or a fieldwork location, interacting with their faculty advisor by mail or other communications media. Visit [www.goddard.edu](http://www.goddard.edu), or call 1-800-468-4888, ext 243.
  - 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@kspr.com](mailto:recycle@kspr.com).

*"Don't expect politicians, even good ones, to do your job for you. Politicians are like weather vanes. Our job is to make the wind blow." -- The late David Brower*

