



Tennessee  
Citizens for  
Wilderness  
Planning

# Newsletter No. 257

August 9, 2004

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## Taking Care of Wild Places

### The BIG stories

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in jeopardy ... ¶5C

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## 9. ACTION SUMMARY

J No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1A	Scuttling of Roadless Rule	US Forest Service	"The proposed rule jeopardizes last wild forests!"
1B	Southern Appalachian forests	USFS Chief Dale Bosworth	"Protect the few wild areas we have left in SE!"
2B	Proposed TN oil & gas regs	Gov. Bredesen	"Need improvements to protect our valued streams!"
3A	Cross-ridge mining	Gov. Bredesen	"Enforce water-quality laws against mine pollution!"
3B	Abandoned Mine Lands Fund	US rep. and senators	"Include improvements in AMI reauthorization!"
4A	Cumberland Gap National Park	Superintendent	Support protection for Park's natural resources
5A	OHV sin national forests	US Forest Service	"The draft rules need strengthening!"
5C	Oil in Natl. Petroleum Reserve	BLM	"Withdraw destructive plan; keep safeguards!"
5D	Attacks on NEPA	Dept. of Homeland Security	"Do not undermine environmental protections!"
6	Oak Ridge conservation easement	TDEC and DOE	"Speed progress on agreement and inform public!"

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  
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202-456-1414; Fax 456-2461  
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Governor Phil Bredesen  
State Capitol  
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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  
e-mail: <http://frist.senate.gov/contact.cfm>  
Local: 865-602-7977

Sen. Lamar Alexander:  
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398  
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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 202-225-4772  
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, phoning, 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.

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# 1. DON'T LET THEM SCUTTLE THE ROADLESS RULE FOR OUR NATIONAL FORESTS!

## A. The proposed new policy will end protection

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule, developed with unprecedented public input in the late 1990s and adopted by the Forest Service in January 2001, protects our country's last remaining intact forests from future road building and commercial logging. National Forest Inventoried Roadless Areas, a total of 58.5 million acres, are covered. The Rule thus ensures the protection of vital watersheds, unspoiled open space, and biological diversity, and it provides outdoor recreation opportunities for our nation.

From Day One, the Bush Administration has found numerous clever methods of attacking the Roadless Rule. First, the White House froze the Rule's implementation. The public comment process was reopened (resulting in even more support). While leaving roadless prohibitions on the books, the Justice Department failed to defend them in the courts. In 2001, the Administration allowed the Forest Service to make exceptions to the Rule in order to address forest-fire and public safety concerns. But now comes the ultimate attack: the Administration isn't just modifying the Rule—it is ineffect ending it in its entirety.

The new policy announced on July 12 will set up a process whereby governors with roadless national forest areas in their States must, (a) decide what areas they would like to see protected, and (b) petition the Department of Agriculture for such protection. After that, it is still at the discretion of Mark Rey, Undersecretary of Agriculture, and former timber-industry lobbyist, to allow or disallow protection of the requested areas.

Prospects are dim, based on the evidence to date. When a governor asks for what the timber industry wants, he gets it; if not, he doesn't. The governor of Alaska demanded logging in the Tongass National Forest, and the Forest Service promptly exempted the Tongass from the original Roadless Rule, then prepared several roadless area sales. On the other hand, the governor of Oregon strongly opposed an immense timber sale proposed for a partially burned roadless area in the Siskiyou National Forest, but the Forest Service ignored him and decided to move forward with the sale.

Allowing Governors to "opt-in" for roadless protection essentially eliminates national protections for roadless areas. Pro-development states like Idaho and Alaska could in fact petition the

Administration to actually *weaken* protections. The proposed new process would impose highly burdensome requirements on the states to develop the petition and help prepare the subsequent environmental analysis. Even in states that are not oriented toward the timber industry, few (if any) governors are likely to spend their limited resources and political capital asking the Forest Service to protect the remaining wild areas when they well know that, at the end of the process, the final decision on their request gets to be made by Mark Rey, the former timber-industry lobbyist. And, even if a petition is accepted, this does not automatically guarantee protection; the Administration "shall make the final decision on any State-specific inventoried roadless area management rule." The new policy is thus a highly cynical way for the Bush Administration to end protection without seeming to do so.

The Administration is of course greenwashing their proposed new policy. In announcing it, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman stated, "Our actions today advance President Bush's commitment to cooperatively conserving roadless areas on national forests." She failed to mention that three years ago, on May 4, 2001, the Administration made a public promise to "uphold" the Roadless Area Conservation Rule to protect the last remaining wild areas of the National Forests. Flip-flop?

Here are some additional points to consider.

- Without the Roadless Rule in place, decisions on road building and logging would once again go back to the individual forest plans. Nationwide, these plans allow road building in an average of 59 % of the 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas (the percentage is much higher in the Southeast; see ¶1B, below). Thus, once the draft regulations are finalized, most roadless areas will become vulnerable to new road construction or logging, energy development, and other commodity uses.
- The new policy would upend the long tradition of consistently applying uniform laws and standards to public lands across the country, and would replace it with a hodge-podge of different rules for forests in different states. — It ignores the fact that these are federal, not state, lands. Protecting the lands within our national forests is supposed to be the job of the US Forest Service, not the job of state governors who simply don't have the staff or expertise. New Mexico Gov. Bili Richardson aptly called the new plan "an abdication of federal responsibility."
- These public lands belong to *all* Americans and should be managed in accordance with *national*

laws and public participation. In the largest public-participation process in U.S. history, over 2.5 million citizens from across the country have already loudly told the Forest Service that they want to "opt in" for protection. At hearings across the nation, including many in the West, over 95% of the comments have supported the Roadless Rule (97% in the Southeast).

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** The Bush proposal is open to public comment until about mid-September. Many of you have commented on the Roadless Rule in the past, but please raise your voice yet again to let the administration and the world know that the public wants our national forests protected - not given away to corporate special interests. Tell them how much you value large natural roadless areas; and how the proposed new Rule jeopardizes the nation's last wild forests.

**Contact information:**

Roadless State Petitions  
c/o Content Analysis Team

USDA, Forest Service  
P.O. Box 22190

Salt Lake City, UT 84122

E-mail: [statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us](mailto:statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us)

Fax: 801-517-1014

In addition to providing comments, write a letter to the editor so others, too, will know about the cynical scheme that's afoot.

## B. Roadless areas of the Southern Appalachian forests in jeopardy

[Condensed from a report\* by the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, Southern Environmental Law Center, and collaborating groups]

In six states of the Southern Appalachians, USFS-inventoried roadless areas make up only 13% of the national forests, well below the national average of 31%. There are altogether only 728,487 acres of roadless areas in the national forests of AL, GA, NC, SC, TN, and VA that were protected by the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. [An average of only 0.41% of these states' total acreages are within Roadless Areas, ranging from 0.04% (AL, SC) to 1.43% (VA).] If the Bush Administration succeeds in scuttling the Rule (see ¶1A. above), 553,000 (that is, 76%) of these 728,487 acres would be placed into management designations that allow road construction and/or logging, which are not presently allowed under the Rule (see table). That is, only 3% of the total national forests acreage for these six states would be protected from logging and other destructive activities.

State	Roadless acres	Roadless acres at risk if Rule is scuttled	Miles of roads in national forests	Miles not open to passenger vehicles
AL	12,436	11,298	1,940	1,329
GA	63,661	55,198	1,538	900
NC	172,000	142,000	2,571	1,608
SC	8,000	5,353	1,610	615
TN	84,715	26,213	1,559	1,036
VA	387,674	313,090	2,988	2,021
<b>Total</b>	<b>728,487</b>	<b>553,090</b>	<b>12,206</b>	<b>7,509</b>

More than 12,000 miles of roads already traverse the Southern Appalachian national forests (with 38% of these open to passenger vehicles, see table). The maintenance backlog for these existing roads in six states is over \$206,119,642, ranging from \$17 million to \$53 million for individual states. Should we build more roads at taxpayer expense?

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact USFS Chief Dale Bosworth (address below) and ask him to keep the Roadless Area Conservation Rule intact. For our own area, remind him of some of the facts in the above article. Remind him also that 97% of the comments received by the Forest Service from citizens of the southeastern Appalachian area supported the complete protection of all roadless areas.

Dale Bosworth, Chief, USFS,

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\*For a complete copy of this excellent, illustrated report, contact [safc@safc.org](mailto:safc@safc.org) or [selcva@selcva.org](mailto:selcva@selcva.org); or call 888-8 FOREST.

## 2. OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

### A. Proposed oil & gas regulations ignore recommended improvements

Almost exactly two years ago, an oil well blew out in Morgan County and seriously polluted the Clear Creek, a major component of the Obed Wild & Scenic River, and its Whites Creek tributary. In addition to the initial spillage, oil continued to leach into the rivers for many months from saturated rocks and soils, and recreational use of the affected portion of Clear Creek had to be suspended until May of this year.

At the time, it appeared that the only good thing that might come of this accident was a major improvement in the way the state of Tennessee regulates oil exploration and extraction. The Commissioner's Oil & Gas Study Committee was convened by the state. Many citizens and citizens' groups worked long and hard researching the situation and contributing detailed comments to the this committee, which eventually produced a constructive report.

Unfortunately, the regulations that are currently being proposed virtually ignore the recommendations of the study committee, thus wasting the considerable effort that was expended by its members and by the contributing citizens. Instead, the proposed regulations reflect the interests of the oil & gas industry. Most of the changes actually relax requirements—reduce bonds, extend schedules for closure, waive permits and applications in favor of mere notification, reduce signage, and reduce inspection.

Early on July 29, the Tennessee Oil & Gas Board held hearings in Nashville on these proposed revisions—a time and place not particularly welcoming to input from citizens that live near the areas where most oil & gas activities take place. Written comments had to be submitted by the date of the hearings. Nevertheless, TCWP managed to provide short comments.

Soon after the July 2002 disaster, an interim policy was put into effect that strengthened the safeguarding of streams in Morgan, Scott, and Fentress Counties. Included was a 330-foot buffer zone around streams. These interim protections have lapsed, and drilling may again be as close as 100 feet from streams, and the distance between dikes and water as little as 25 feet! The Cumberland Plateau, which has recently been designated as an international BioGen (NL255 94A), is home to some of the world's outstanding streams that provide habitat for unparalleled species diversity. It is incredible that these proposed rules should put these streams at risk.

The TCWP comments make several additional points about the proposed rules.

- No opportunity is provided for the public to become aware of or comment on drilling-permit applications.
- Bonding requirements are quite inadequate. The costs incurred at Clear Creek, when fully calculated, will be a great multiple of the bond amounts required by the proposed regulations.
- Measures for preventing blow-outs are not sufficiently specified.
- Because protection of our vital watersheds is of paramount importance, the Division of Water

Pollution Control should have an oversight role in oil & gas activities.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** The deadline for comments has passed, but if you are upset about the proposed regulations and about the way the process has been handled, contact Gov. Bredeisen (address on p.2)

## **B. Obed land acquisition: none to date**

Last year, the Obed Wild & Scenic River received an appropriation of \$750,000 for land acquisition (NL254 91A). It was a miracle in a year when Congress appropriated virtually no acquisition funds anywhere else, and it couldn't have happened without concerted citizen effort and resulting support from Congressmen Wamp and Davis and from Tennessee's senators.

But 8 long months have gone by without even one acre of land having been acquired. Soon after the appropriation was announced, local National Park Service (NPS) staff traveled to Atlanta to present pertinent documents, maps, etc. to NPS's Southeast Regional Office (SERO), which is handling the acquisition process.

Unfortunately, the Dept. of Interior has recently decreed that appraisers must now be requested from Washington, and this has badly slowed the proceedings. Appraisal costs (and the costs of any surveys that might need to precede appraisals) come out of the appropriated \$750,000. These amounts can be quite substantial.

As of June, only three appraisals have been ordered, and letters have been sent to another 10 landowners. The order in which landowners are contacted is based on a tier system set up by the Land Protection Plan, which unfortunately does not prioritize tracts according to their ecological or scenic value, or take into account any potential threats to the lands. It is known that there are quite a few willing sellers of Obed tracts, but not all of these may, in fact, receive letters.

Of the current Obed WSR lands, only some are government-owned in fee title; on many tracts, NPS owns only an easement. To date, there are 16 scenic easements and 5 trail easements in the Obed WSR. ATV trails and logging have encroached on some of these easements. NPS saves only little money by buying easements in lieu of fee title; the former cost 80% of the latter, on average. For these reasons, fee acquisition is preferred by NPS—and by most landowners too.

### C. *New mining in watershed threatens BSF mussel recovery*

The Big South Fork NRR is one of the last remaining refuges for freshwater mussels in the world. Several months ago (NL254 ¶1B), the National Park Service (NPS) gave final approval to an excellent plan to protect the 26 mussel species (including 6 federally protected ones) that still inhabit the Big South Fork, and to reintroduce some of the over 40 additional species that once lived there (NL247 ¶2B). This effort is now threatened by the resurgence of coal mining in the watershed, an activity likely to undo 30 years of water-quality recovery.

Cross-ridge mining (= mountaintop removal) is a growing practice in the watershed (¶3A, this NL). The National Park Service in April sent comments to OSM regarding two coal-mine permits in the New River watershed. The letters state that while the BSF National Area is not opposed to mining in the headwaters, it is opposed to receiving degraded water quality that may affect NPS resources. Several provisions of the legislation that authorized the Big South Fork NRR are cited that clearly put the law on the side of not permitting mines that would jeopardize water quality downstream. Furthermore the Surface Mining and Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 itself prohibits any operations "which will adversely affect any publicly owned park..." [SMCRA, Sec. 522(e)(3)]. And, on top of everything else, the State of Tennessee has designated the Big South Fork Cumberland River, which receives effluents from New River, as an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW), the highest tier of protection afforded by the Clean Water Act. Permits granted by OSM in the face of all these provisions of law should certainly be regarded as completely illegal.

Many of the mining sites that polluted the BSFNRR's rivers in the past are presently being considered for "re-mining" to access deeper seams of coal, the excuse being that once-abandoned sites can be reclaimed after the area is re-mined. With regard to "re-mining," the manner in which the Abandoned Mine Land Program is reauthorized (¶3B, this NL) will have a major impact on future pollution of the Big South Fork.

### D. *BSF Management Plan about to be released*

Work on the General Management Plan (GMP) for the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area began in early 2000, 26 years after the Area was authorized, and 10

years after the National Park Service took over management from the Corps of Engineers. Considerable opposition to the first draft of the GMP resulted in NPS embarking on a major revision (with another round of hearings, comments, etc.) intended to be based on analyses of resources, use and impact patterns, carrying capacity, etc., as had been suggested in critiques of the first draft (NL235 ¶1; NL239 ¶2A). The revision also incorporates a trails-management plan.

Now the final document is about to be released. Copies may be requested ahead of time in a variety of formats: (a) on CD (in PDF format); (b) on paper (NPS advises that each printed copy costs the taxpayer \$40); or (c) downloaded from the web site at [www.nps.gov/biso](http://www.nps.gov/biso). You can place your order by e-mail ([BISO.Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:BISO.Superintendent@nps.gov)) or by calling 423-569-9778.

## 3. COAL MINING: A MENACE TO THE CUMBERLANDS

### A. *400-mile water trip delivers mountaintop-removal message to the governor*

Four mountaintop removal sites are already active in Tennessee, and 12 more are proposed by TVA (NL253 ¶3A). Euphemistically called cross-ridge mining, the version practiced in our state consists of moving the overburden around and replacing it on the flat bench that remains after the horizontally-layered coal has been removed. Sounds good, but the loose soil of what was once the top of a mountain will sooner or later (usually sooner) wash or slide down the slope into the nearest stream. Cross-ridge mining thus leads to a delayed -- rather than instant -- hollow fill.

That's why this type of mining, even more than conventional strip mining, is very much a water (as well as land) issue. Issuance of a permit requires approval of the Tennessee Water Control Division, as well as that of the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM). With little hope for help from OSM, citizens appalled by mountaintop removal are appealing to the state.

July 24 saw the end of a 400-mile 16-day relay organized by Save Our Cumberland Mountains (with the help of TSRA and canoe clubs) to deliver a jug of mine-polluted water to Gov. Bredesen, along with an appeal to him to help us preserve our mountaintops from strip mining. More specifically, the message urged the Governor to ensure that our water-quality laws be more strictly enforced.

Much of the ongoing and proposed mountain-top removal is located in the watershed of the New River, one of the two main stems of the Big South Fork Cumberland River. The Big South Fork has only recently recovered from decades of mine pollution (see also Q2C, this NL), and the State of Tennessee has designated the portion of the river that receives effluents from New River as Outstanding National Resource Water, the highest tier of protection afforded by the Clean Water Act.

The journey of the jug of mine-polluted water therefore began at Leatherwood Ford in the Big South Fork NRR. Canoeists paddled through waters swollen by recent heavy rains, portaged Angel Falls, and eventually handed over the jug to other boaters in Lake Cumberland. Still others took it the length of the Cumberland River and its various reservoirs. There were seven relay teams along the route, and close to 100 boats of all kinds joined the group that finally delivered the message at the dock below the Coliseum in Nashville.

The message received, TDEC Commissioner Betsy Child arranged a September meeting with SOCM and others to hear about the mountain-top-removal impacts and to discuss them. We'll be watching to see if concrete action ensues.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact Gov. Phil Bredesen (address p.2) and urge him to strictly enforce Tennessee water quality laws under which mountain-top removal would not be permitted. Remind him that the State of Tennessee has designated the Big South Fork Cumberland, which receives effluents from New River, as Outstanding National Resource Water, the highest tier of protection afforded by the US Clean Water Act, and that the Big South Fork is the heart of the BSFNRR.

## **B. Abandoned Mine Lands Fund: good and bad news**

To date, 27 years after authorization of the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program, fewer than 20% of orphan-mine sites across the country have been reclaimed, and the program is set to expire unless reauthorized this year. Unfortunately, the bills that were introduced to achieve this reauthorization (NL256 Q4A) included a number of harmful provisions, one of the worst of which was to give the money that goes into funding the AML program (a 35¢ per-ton fee on currently mined coal) to the coal companies for their performance bond. The performance bond is

money posted by the operator before he begins mining to insure that the land will be reclaimed after mining is complete. This provision would thus subsidize "re-mining" and take away the incentive for correcting current mining damage, while draining the Fund for reclaiming past (orphan) mines.

The good news is that, on July 16, because of large public pressure, the Senate Energy Committee decided not to bring up one of these bad bills, which was sponsored by Sen. Thomas (R-WY). In the House, AML reauthorization was, with much cynicism, attached to a bill that would have opened the Arctic refuge to oil & gas drilling. (Chose your poison!) This bill fortunately did not make it (Q5B, this NL). The Tennessee delegation split along party lines. Rep. Lincoln Davis (D-4th Distr.) voted in opposition with the rest of his party, even though he had been campaigning on extending the AML program; he deserves our gratitude.

The bad news is that it looks as if this Congress may adjourn before an improved reauthorization of the AML Program is even considered, let alone passed. In view of this possibility, the Citizens Coal Council is looking at options for a one-year extension of the present program.

Reauthorization of the present program should include a number of features.

- Minimum program funding for states should be \$4 (instead of \$2) million, and Tennessee (which operates under a federal, instead of a state, program) should be given the same minimum funding guarantee as other states. Tennessee has 9,600 acres of high-priority sites that would take \$33 million to reclaim; currently we receive \$1-\$1.5 million per year.
- General welfare sites (e.g., those impacting water quality) should continue to receive priority.
- The per-ton fee (currently 35¢) should not be cut (as proposed by the Administration), and should not be given to the coal companies for payment of their performance bonds.
- The program should be reauthorized for 25 (instead of just 15) years.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Contact both senators and your representative (see p.2) and urge them to support AML reauthorization that includes the features enumerated above.

#### 4. AROUND THE STATE

##### A. Cumberland Gap National Historical Park preparing GMP

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park is a little jewel in the corner of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia. Of its ~20,000 acres, ~14,000 are managed as wilderness, and among the natural resources of the park are spectacular cliffs and rock formations, 24 caves, clear mountain streams, a large highland bog, and a fascinating variety of plant and animal species, including several threatened and endangered ones on federal or state lists. The park was authorized in 1940 to protect the historic Cumberland Gap, including the Warrior's Path of the American Indian and the Pioneer Wilderness Road; naturally it contains many cultural resources in addition to its natural ones. Recent completion of \$280-million twin-bore tunnels has removed motorized traffic from the surface in a location that provides spectacular views.

Cumberland Gap NHP has recently announced the start of a comprehensive planning process that will result in a General Management Plan (GMP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will guide park management for the next 10-15 years. Between August 10 and August 12, three public meetings will be held to define the issues. Based on this input, the Park Service will develop alternatives.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** You may not receive this Newsletter in time to attend any of the August meetings, but your comments will be welcome until September 11. Get park information from [www.nps.gov/cuga/pphtml/documents.html](http://www.nps.gov/cuga/pphtml/documents.html). Support stringent protection for the park's outstanding natural resources.

**Contact information:**

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Cumberland Gap NHP  
P.O. Box 1848  
Middlesboro, KY 40965-1848  
606-248-2817; [CUGA\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:CUGA_Superintendent@nps.gov)

##### B. State's land-acquisition initiatives

In Gov. Bredesen's balanced budget that passed the General Assembly in June, he restored nearly all of the land acquisition funds totaling almost \$17 million annually (NL256 13A). In addition, he allocated nearly \$3 million for the acquisition of 8,000 acres of forests in the Cumberland Range known as the Bedsole Tract. This

property is widely regarded as one of the most important biological systems in the country.

The state is currently working with the Friends of South Cumberland State Recreation Area and The Conservation Fund to add nearly 7,000 acres from the Fiery Gizzard Trail to the South Cumberland Recreation Area using resources from the Land Acquisition Fund.

##### C. Bowater, Inc. donating land to Cumberland Trail State Park

It was announced on July 1 that, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the company's Calhoun, Tenn., operations, Bowater Inc. would dedicate 3700+ acres of pristine woodlands to the Cumberland Trail State Park (CTS P). Included is a donation of 610 acres that will connect segments of the CTSP's Rock Creek, Possum Creek, and Soddy Creek Trails. In addition, conservation easements will be made in the North Chickamauga, Piney River, and Stinging Fork Pocket Wilderness Areas, and in the Upper Piney River Gorge of the Cumberland Trail system. These lands will be combined with the state's recent purchase of 4,500 acres in northern Hamilton County to permanently protect nearly 50 trail miles on 31,222 acres in the company's Pocket Wilderness areas, which are located throughout the Cumberland Plateau.

Bowater also announced plans to work with the State of Tennessee over the next year to study the company's Cumberland Plateau lands that may be appropriate for additional protection. The study will cover lands that are adjacent to Tennessee state parks and trails, as well as gulfs and coves.

The Dogwood Alliance, based in Asheville, NC, commended Bowater for beginning to listen to the voices of environmental groups and scientists who have been calling on the company to protect the endangered forests of the Cumberland Plateau. The Alliance points out that the 3700 acres represent roughly 1% of the company's Tennessee holdings, namely 343,000 acres, of which approximately 240,000 acres have already been converted from native hardwood forests to short-rotation loblolly pine plantations.

The Alliance calls on Bowater to protect Plateau forests and support sustainable logging in this region for generations to come. The company could do so by making a long-term commitment to stop logging in the most pristine or "endangered" forests throughout the Plateau, to practice good forestry on lands where logging is appropriate, and to maximize the use of post-consumer recycled fiber in all of their products.



The Cumberland Plateau is globally recognized for its outstanding biodiversity and has recently been designated as one of the world's dozen BioCems (NL255 ¶4A). These last remaining intact hardwood forests in the South, provide critical habitat for migratory songbirds and countless other species, protect water quality, contribute to a strong tourism and recreation economy, and contribute to the quality of life for people throughout the region.

#### **D. Environmental groups urge moratorium on issuance of stream-alteration permits**

Tennessee's streams and wetlands are receiving far from adequate protection against damaging developments. Nine Tennessee environmental groups, including TCWP, have contacted Gov. Bredesen, deploring the damage to, and destruction of, numerous valuable aquatic resources by activities that are sanctioned by the Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC's) permit process. The letter cites ARAPs (Aquatic Resource Alteration Permits) that were issued despite well-based analytical opposition from the environmental community.

"It is apparent that the process does not work," says the letter. "Tennessee's waters are being degraded almost daily with permission of the state; in some areas high quality waters are being impaired or lost." Among several examples cited are the cross-ridge mining operation at Zeb Mountain (see also ¶3A, this NL), the filling of wetlands by a WalMart at South Chickamauga Creek, and the dredging, herbicide use, and tree removal in Reelfoot Lake, which is designated an Outstanding National Resource Water (highest designation).

The groups ask the governor to issue an executive order pronouncing a one-year moratorium on issuance of ARAPs, including pending permits. During this time TDEC would establish an advisory committee to suggest improved permitting procedures.

#### **E. Watersheds and biodiversity**

The Southeast Watershed Forum has issued a report subtitled "Community Guide for Restoration of Native Fish & Aquatic Species. Because of its great variety of landforms and resulting habitats, the southeastern USA is blessed with more aquatic freshwater species than any other region of the country - 62% of the country's freshwater fish species, and 75% of the mussel species. Unfortunately, as noted in the chapter by Gary Myers, Executive Director of the Tennessee Wild-

life Resources Agency (TWRA), aquatic resources are rapidly approaching a crisis point: almost 400 aquatic species are in trouble in some portion of their range. About 34% of all North American fish species and 90% of all mussel species listed as endangered or threatened are found in the Southeast. Much of this is the result of rapidly deteriorating water quality.

For copies of Southeast Watershed Forum publications, go to [www.southeastwaterforum.org](http://www.southeastwaterforum.org). The Forum is sponsoring a Tennessee event in October (¶8, this NL).

### **5. NATIONAL ISSUES**

#### **A. Regulation of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) in national forests**

[Information from Wilderness Society]

A growing swarm of dirt bikes, four-wheelers and other off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is roaring through public lands, carving up fragile areas, polluting the air and water, and frightening wildlife. On some forests, ATVs and dirt bikes can travel virtually without limit across hundreds of thousands, even millions, of acres. In 2001, the Forest Service estimated that 60,000 miles of unauthorized roads, many illegally blazed by off-road operators, scar our national forests nationwide. The number has grown markedly ever since then. The Forest Service has failed to effectively manage OHV use or consistently enforce even its own most basic rules on off-road use.

US Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth now considers this one of the four greatest threats to national forest, and has asked his agency to develop rules to address it. Unfortunately, the draft rules the USFS released on July 7, while representing a small step in the right direction, stop far short of what is needed.

The most useful of the proposed changes would;

- Prohibit cross-country motorized travel across entire forests.
- Allow ATV and dirt bike use only on roads and off-road vehicle routes specifically designated for such use; and,
- Allow forests to begin route designations without first inventorying or mapping unauthorized user-created or "renegade" routes.

The proposal falls far short, however, in the following provisions:

- It fails to reflect the urgency of the matter. There is no schedule for starting or completing the study and for designating routes for OHV use.
- It is virtually silent about addressing the serious problem of unauthorized or renegade routes.
- It does not clearly require the Forest Service to study the negative impacts of specific routes it might consider opening to OHVs.
- It does nothing to boost on-the-ground management and enforcement ability.

TCWP co-signed a letter to the USFS in April, urging strong regulatory reform. The letter noted that not only must the Service develop regulations, but it must request additional funds from Congress to enforce them. Simply restricting OHVs to designated roads and trails is not enough. The letter outlined a comprehensive set of common-sense policy reforms.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** The deadline for comments is September 13, 2004. Please tell the Forest Service how concerned you are about OHVs in national forests, and urge them to strengthen the draft rules by citing some of the points from the above article.

**Contact information:**

Proposed Rule for Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use  
c/o Content Analysis Team  
PO Box 221150  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84122-1150.  
trvmar@fs.fed.us  
Fax: 801-517-1014

**B. Another attempt to open the Arctic Refuge is dropped, but ...**

In one of the most cynical efforts yet, the House of Representatives prepared a bill for floor action in June that would have opened the Arctic Refuge and then earmarked the speculative revenues from drilling to the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) reclamation fund (see ¶3B, this NL). Fortunately, the United Mine Workers, whom the politicians were courting, saw through the ploy and the bill was dropped.

**C. ... now they're moving to exploit the ecologically unequalled Western Arctic Reserve**

Thwarted by the public in its efforts to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling, the Bush Administration and the oil companies are now using the rise in gasoline prices as a pretext to sacrifice another of America's greatest

natural treasures — Alaska's Western Arctic. This plan was announced in Anchorage just as Congress recessed for the Reagan funeral, so the rest of America has heard virtually nothing about it.

The centerpiece of the plan is a proposal to lease rights for oil and gas development in the Teshekpuk Lake region — one of the most important tundra-wetland ecosystems left on our planet. This vast network of coastal lagoons, deep water lakes, sedge-grass meadows and braided streams provides the critical calving grounds for caribou. Teshekpuk Lake is the biological heart of the western Arctic, the summer nesting and breeding ground for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds of many species that arrive here each year from 32 of the lower 48 states as well as from countries as far south as Argentina.

Teshekpuk Lake lies within the western region of what is known as the "National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska," set aside nearly a century ago. But Congress also stipulated that this oil field be tapped only in time of dire national need, and it mandated protections for the wildlife and native peoples (whose subsistence comes from hunting and fishing in the area). Our government kept oil rigs out of the Western Arctic Reserve even during the darkest days of World War II and the oil embargo of the 1970s. As a result, most of the reserve has remained pristine — its primeval beauty unmarred by roads, oil rigs or other signs of human interference. Interior secretaries since the 1970s have recognized the need for special protection in the Teshekpuk Lake area.

An extensive study by scientists and native peoples during the last two years of the Clinton Administration recommended that oil leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve should be done only with stipulations for setting aside approximately 13 percent of the study area, mostly rivers and lakes, including Teshekpuk, as protected areas. The study also stipulated a ban on permanent roads across the fragile tundra (restricting use to temporary winter "ice roads").

The Bush Administration now proposes to eliminate these safeguards. In addition, it plans to put not only the Teshekpuk region but 96% of the reserve's wildlife-filled northeast region on the auction block.

Drilling in the Western Arctic would have no effect on gas prices at the pump. Oil from the area would take years to get to market and would never equal more than one or two percent of America's oil supply — a tiny drop in the bucket of our nation's oil consumption.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** By Aug. 23, fax comments at 1-907-272-3430 to Susan Child, Northeast NPR-A Planning Team, BLM, 222 W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Anchorage, AK 99513-7599; or go to BLM's web site <http://nenpra.nwr.com>. Tell the Bureau of Land Management to retain existing protections for the Reserve's world-class wildlife habitats. If you don't have time to compose a message, a quick way to make your voice count is to do it electronically via <http://www.savebiogeomys.org/westernarctic/takeaction.asp?R0407> or <http://gal.org/campaign/NPRA/inibsnzyisbb6>

#### **D. Dept. of Homeland Security threatens to undermine NEPA**

[From NRDC]

The Department of Homeland Security is currently establishing its policy for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA requires that when a particular activity has the potential of damaging the environment, there must be public notice, public involvement, and an analysis of the action for potentially harmful consequences.

When the Department of Homeland Security was created, it brought 22 federal agencies under its authority. It therefore has tremendous reach over activities that could affect our environment, such as Coast Guard activities in our nation's waters or Border Patrol activities in the wildlands of the southwest.

Instead of complying with NEPA's open government purpose, however, the Dept. of Homeland Security's proposed policy would undermine the law in two significant ways.

- It would create "categorical exclusions" to NEPA, i.e., exceptions that would allow agencies to carry out activities that are likely to harm the environment and wildlife habitat without ever having to let the public know or evaluate the consequences.
- It would limit public information by directly authorizing the department to withhold any information it deems "sensitive." Currently only classified information can be withheld, in order to protect national security, but the proposal's expanded sweep of information to be withheld is unreasonably broad.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** By August 16, urge the Dept. of Homeland Security not to unnecessarily undermine environmental protections or keep important information from the public. If you are rushed for time, you can send a message from NRDC's Earth Action Center at

<http://www.nrdc.org/action/>. Or, compose and send your own message.

**Contact information:**

Department of Homeland Security  
Environmental Planning, Office of Safety and Environment  
Washington, D.C. 20528  
e-mail: [admin-S&E@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:admin-S&E@hq.dhs.gov)  
Fax: 202-772-9749

#### **E. Only one bright spot in an abysmal Interior Appropriations bill**

On June 17, the House passed the 2005 Interior Appropriations bill with truly disastrous funding cuts. As a result of Subcommittee action (Rep. Charles Taylor, R-NC), the federal portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been virtually eliminated and the Forest Legacy Fund drastically cut for the coming fiscal year. The Administration's Interior budget request had included a few land-acquisition items for the Cumberland Plateau that are crucial if we are to protect these extremely valuable lands. It is not clear if any of these will be rescued in the final bill.

A "conservation package" of four good bipartisan amendments was offered to the bill; three failed. They would have: (a) phased out snowmobiles from Yellowstone; (b) restored conservation of native species as a requirement for national forest management; (c) stopped the slaughter of bison that wander out of Yellowstone in search of winter food.

The bright spot is that one part of the package, the "Tongass Subsidy Amendment," did make it. As a result, taxpayers would not be forced to subsidize new logging roads on the Tongass National Forest, also known as America's Rainforest, in FY2005.

The amendment must still pass the Senate and be signed by the President. If it survives, at least this part of the subsidy to the timber industry will cease. In 2002, the U.S. Forest Service spent \$36 million preparing timber sales that only brought in \$1.2 million in revenue and supported only 197 timber jobs-- that's a tax subsidy of \$178,000 per job.

#### **F. Tennessee Congressmen working for the environment**

- TN Congressman Jim Cooper (D-5) co-authored a bipartisan congressional letter (along with Rep. Tom Allen of Maine) to EPA advocating stronger emission rules for airborne mercury. Among 180 House members who signed the letter were TN Congressmen Gordon (D-6), and Ford (D-9).

Thank these three TN Congressmen, and ask yours why he didn't join them.

- Bart Gordon (D-6) is the only TN rep to support the Clean Water Restoration Act. He is also working for increased funding for clean-water programs, and is concerned about EPA's "sewage-blending" proposal under which sewage that is only partially treated could be blended with fully treated sewage during rainstorms and then released into waterways.

## G. Walter Cronkite suggests an environmental platform

*[Walter Cronkite, the word-famous, respected, former CBS news anchor, was asked by TheNation.com what he thinks the Democratic platform should be. This was his response on the Nation's web site [www.thenation.com](http://www.thenation.com)]*

"The Democrats should pledge to restore the environment to the status of a major concern, putting a new Department of the Environment on a par with State and Defense. At its heart will be a blue-ribbon panel of distinguished scientists who will identify the most pressing environmental problems and prioritize the department's attacks upon them.

"The Secretary of the Environment will be an individual with a national reputation as one long dedicated to the cause, fearless in condemning the special interests and their political lackeys. (The platform could promise that Ralph Nader would be offered the post, which would serve to deflate Nader's third-party campaign.)

"The Department of the Environment will, during inaugural week, begin the complete reversal of most, if not all, of the outgoing Republican Administration's actions involving the environment, putting into effect stringent air and water regulations and eliminating favored treatment for polluters who are regarded as special interests. The Administration will recognize the Kyoto Protocol and become a leader in reversing global warming, including working to end the world's dependence on fossil fuels.

"In addition, the Administration will protect our forests, marshes, lakes, rivers, coasts and wildlife from industrial and commercial development and oil exploration, while recognizing the value of every living thing placed in our care."

## 6. OAK RIDGE AREA

### State of Tennessee Response to "What's Happening with the 3,000-acre Black Oak Ridge conservation easement?"

*[Contributed by Dev Joslin]*

In June of this year, TCWP and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) at last received a short progress report from the State of Tennessee's Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) on the effort to place approximately 3,000 acres on the western end of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Reservation under a permanent conservation easement. This report came some 18 months after then-Governor Sundquist had formally announced an "Agreement in Principle" between the State of Tennessee and the DOE to conserve this land (NL249 ¶6A).

In May of this year, TCWP and AFORR had written a letter to TDEC's Commissioner Betsy Child requesting information on progress towards bringing this "Agreement in Principle" to a reality. The promise to preserve both East and West Black Oak Ridge and McKinney Ridge for conservation and public recreation had been reached under the Natural Resources Damage Assessment as partial "payment for pollution damages" caused in the past to the waters of Watts Bar Reservoir by runoff from DOE lands. The area is located behind and adjacent to Horizon Center and Heritage Center on Highways 95 and 58.

The letter to Ms. Child reminded her how the land had been unanimously identified in 2001-02 by a group of 20 local and statewide stakeholders (The "Focus Group") as an area primarily suited for conservation of wildlife, plant life, and for recreation (hiking, biking, hunting, wildlife-viewing, etc.) (NL247 ¶8A). The letter also expressed concern that, (a) a long time had passed with no apparent progress since the initial oral agreement, and (b) the public has not been kept informed on this matter.

On June 2, Commissioner Child responded that a schedule was currently in place that "will hopefully make this matter move forward expeditiously." According to Child, "TDEC is currently engaged in negotiations" and hopes "to have language in final form by the end of the summer" for the signing of an agreement. After that is accomplished, both an "ecological evaluation" and "an agreement on the [monetary] value of the easement" will need to be reached. The commissioner noted that the agreement would be for an "indefinite term," as DOE retains the right to reclaim the use of the land "for rea-

sons of national security." "Nevertheless, the purposes of the easement will be ... to permanently conserve this land in a natural state," wrote Child.

This letter has been received as good news by most. In the subsequent two months, however, we have heard nothing further about progress, and summer is rapidly drawing to a close. Both TDEC and DOE have remained remarkably quiet with regard to public announcements on the matter since a public hearing was held by TDEC in Oak Ridge almost exactly a year ago (Aug. 5, 2003) to obtain ideas for the management of the large area. At that hearing approximately 75 citizens expressed almost unanimous support for the agreement (NL252 ¶ 6A).

Since that time, the City of Oak Ridge has publicly indicated a strong interest in developing approximately 240 acres on the eastern end of that section of the DOE reservation (adjacent to Wisconsin Ave and below Whippoorwill Road in Oak Ridge). Oak Ridge Mayor David Bradshaw has been a strong advocate for both this development and for the completion of the agreement on the 3,000-acre conservation easement.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Write to Commissioner Betsy Child (Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation, 401 Church Street, L&C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243-0435) and to Manager of DOE's Oak Ridge Operations Gerald Boyd (PO Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN) expressing both your support for this agreement and your concern that the public is not being kept informed on progress on this matter.

## 7. TCWP NEWS

### A. Upcoming activities

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

*(For additional information on any of the listed events, call Sandra K. Goss at 865-522-3809 or e-mail [skgoss@tcwp.com](mailto:skgoss@tcwp.com).)*

Tennessee Forests are the topic, Tuesday, Aug. 31

John Wund of Tennessee Forests Council will be the featured speaker at our Summer Membership meeting. Over the past several months, the issues of clearcutting and forest conversions have been steadily in the public eye. Join us at this meeting to learn more about what is happening to Tennessee's precious forests. The Tennessee Forests Council, of which TCWP is a member, is a growing coalition of organizations across the

state that is building grassroots support for protecting our native hardwood forests.

The meeting will be held August 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Craft Room of the Oak Ridge Civic Center. Refreshments after the talk. For more information, call Sandra K. Goss (contact info above).

### Volunteers are needed on Public Lands Day, September 18

Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area at Elza Gate Park will again be the site of our National Public Lands Day celebration/work session on Saturday morning, September 18. Come join us for our exotic pest plant removal project, to be followed by a picnic.

The WORK SESSION will begin at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers should bring gloves, loppers or shears, and rain protection, and wear sturdy shoes. Additional tools will be furnished. Jobs will include removing pine trees that are encroaching on the glade areas, as well as removing privet, multiflora rose, and mimosa from throughout the Area.

To celebrate our work, a PICNIC LUNCH will be served free of charge at Elza Gate Park at noon.

### Oak Ridge City Hike event, September?

Members of the Service Committee are finalizing arrangements for an Oak Ridge City Hike event, tentatively scheduled for September. This event will feature hikes of various difficulties on Oak Ridge's trails and greenways. *Call Sandra for date*

### Annual Meeting, Saturday, Oct. 23

We have the date, and details will be sent in a separate mailing later this month. As in past years, a Silent Auction will be held during the meeting. If you have some items for the auction, start setting them aside now. If you can't bring them along yourself, call Sandra at 865-522-3809 and she will make arrangements to pick them up.

### C. Selected TCWP actions, March-May 2004

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

We are continuing our periodic update on what keeps the TCWP Board, staff, and committee members busy. In NL255 ¶9B and NL256 ¶11C, we summarized the first five months of this year. Here is a list for June and July.

### Letters (L)/Comments (C)

SACE's letter supporting Climate Stewardship Act (L)

US Climate Action Network's letter supporting Climate Stewardship Act (L)  
 TCWP letter supporting Climate Stewardship Act (L)  
 Letters to Wamp and Duncan supporting conservation items in Interior Appropriations Bill (L)  
 Letters to Gov. Bredesen, Senators Frist and Alexander, and Rep. Wamp opposing dismantling of Roadless Rule (L)  
 TN Oil & Gas Rule changes (C)  
 Oil & Gas rule comments (w/TCWN and NPCA)  
 TEC's letter requesting moratorium on ARAPs (L)  
 SACE letter supporting clean air for parks (BART and Clean Air Interstate Rule) (L)  
 SACE letter to Pres. Bush requesting TVA compliance with Clean Air Act (L)  
 Nomination of a TCWP Board member for American Land Conservation Award

### Meetings attended and/or organized

Cumberland Green (Plateau water issues)  
 Alliance for the Cumberland's Director Search Committee  
 Community Shares Coordinators  
 City of OR Mayor and City Mgr regarding conservation easement  
 TN Forest Coalition  
 Emory Valley Greenway  
 Water Issues Committee  
 Service Committee  
 Mailing Committee  
 TCWP Board

### Actions

Issued/posted action alerts/flyers:  
 Zeb Mt mining permit modification  
 Oil & Gas rules hearing/comment period  
 TN Forest Coalition state candidate survey  
 TCWP exhibit at Secret City Festival  
 Provided canoe and gear for delivery of mountain-top-removal message.  
*Example plant eradication, O.R. Gular, Barren, 7/30*

## **12. JOBS; CALENDAR; RESOURCES**

### **\*\* Job opportunity**

A position on the Little Tennessee Watershed team, Lenoir City, maybe available for some outstanding student who is detail-oriented and hard-working. The region covered by the watershed team includes Fort Loudoun, Tellico, and Fontana Reservoirs and their tributaries. Job duties consist of learning permitting (fordocks, etc.), field checks for such permitting (identification of resources), and water-quality improvement projects. The water-quality projects, which offer great networking opportunities, would involve

representing TVA at coalition meetings, so good people-skills are a must. Any intern or contractor who shows good promise would have an excellent shot at one of several entry-level positions TVA has opening up this summer or fall. More details are available from Ella Christina Guinn (Tina), TVA, Little Tennessee Watershed Team, HWY 1A-LCT, 804 Hwy 321 N, Ste. 300, Lenoir City, TN 37771-6440, ph: 865/988-2463, fax: 865-988-2426, ecguinn@tva.gov

- **Events and deadlines calendar** (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, [skgoss@tcwp.com](mailto:skgoss@tcwp.com))
- Aug. 16, Comment deadline for Dept. of Homeland Security's proposal to weaken NEPA (§5D, this NL).
- Aug. 23, Comment deadline for Western Arctic Reserve (§5C, this NL).
- Aug. 28, Nashville, 7-11 p.m. SACE's Greenhouse Effect Party at the Greenhouse Bar will benefit the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy's work to clean up coal-fired power plants in Tennessee and across the Southeast. Visit the "What's New" section on [www.cleanenergy.org](http://www.cleanenergy.org). Purchase tickets by going to [www.teamgreenonline.com](http://www.teamgreenonline.com).
- Aug. 31, TCWP program on forests (§7A, this NL).
- mid-Sept., comment deadline for Roadless Rule (§1, this NL).
- Sept. 11, Comment deadline for Cumberland Gap NHP Plan (§4A, this NL).
- Sept. 13, comment deadline for Forest Service's ●HV regulations (§5A, this NL).
- Sept. 17-19, Camp Ocoee, Parksville Lake, Dogwood Alliance Annual Membership Meeting. Contact [michelle@dogwoodalliance.com](mailto:michelle@dogwoodalliance.com)
- Sept. 18, Worthington Cemetery work day and picnic to celebrate Public Lands Day (§7A, this NL).
- Oct. 23, TCWP Annual Meeting (§7A, this NL).
- Oct. 27-29, 2004 Southeast Watershed Roundtable and Tennessee Watershed Roundtable, Nashville. Go to [www.southeastwaterforum.org](http://www.southeastwaterforum.org) or e-mail [SEForum@bellsouth.net](mailto:SEForum@bellsouth.net). (§4E, this NL).
- Nov. 7, 7:00 p.m., Walkin' Jim Stoltz (a man who has walked almost 25,000 miles through North American wildlands) and his "Forever Wild" show at UTC's new University Center auditorium. Sponsored by a UTC department and the Cherokee Chapter of the Sierra Club. To reserve tickets, e-mail Susan Faidley at [evergreen50@earthlink.net](mailto:evergreen50@earthlink.net).

## •• Resources

- "Roadless Areas of the Southern Appalachians: what we lost and what we stand to lose" is a highly informative, illustrated report by the Southern Environmental Law Center, the Southern Appalachian Forest coalition, and two Virginia groups. Contact [safc@safc.org](mailto:safc@safc.org) or [selcva@selcva.org](mailto:selcva@selcva.org); or call 888-8FOREST.
- "Strategic Ignorance: why the Bush Administration is recklessly destroying a century of environmental progress," by Carl Pope and Paul Rauber. For purchase information, go to [www.sierraclub.org/books](http://www.sierraclub.org/books), or call 415-977-5600. A special web site, [www.strategicignorance.com](http://www.strategicignorance.com), will continue to follow and document the Bush agenda highlighted in this book.
- "Mountain Doers," by Amy Rawe, in the July/Aug. 2003 issue of HOPE magazine (No. 38), is an informative article about SOCM ("A small band of Tennessee residents took on the coal companies and won -- and then took on the needs of the entire state"). From founding President J.W. Bradley to current President Howard White, and always with Director Maureen O'Connell -- an inspiring tale indeed!
- "This Land is Your Land" is a short film (now available on DVD) on Forest Service management of National Forests. Billed as an eye-opener, the film, presented by the Sierra Club, features interviews with politicians on both sides, former Forest Service personnel, biologists and others calling for an end to the tax-payer subsidized timber sales. Send your order to [nfpa@forestadvocate.org](mailto:nfpa@forestadvocate.org), or 406-542-7565. A \$5 donation is suggested, but no order will be refused.
- "Nature-Friendly Ordinances," published by the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and written by ELI Senior Attorney James M. McElfish, Jr., shows how local governments can conserve living resources and habitats using familiar land-use tools. Based on land management guidelines developed by the Ecological Society of America, the book shows how land-use ordinances can address issues of habitat conservation, ecological function, watershed management, and conservation of diverse plants and animals. Go to [http://www.elistore.org/books\\_detail.asp?ID=10989](http://www.elistore.org/books_detail.asp?ID=10989).
- Under a cooperative agreement from EPA, the Center for Watershed Protection has published the first three manuals in CWP's "Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series". The series is

designed to assist local and state managers in crafting urban watershed restoration plans. The manuals were written in a format "that can be easily accessed by watershed groups, municipal staff, environmental consultants and other users." Each manual is approximately 100 pages long, and some also include a CD with software to enable data collection and storage. Contact Dawn Lemke at Southeast Watershed Forum,

