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13. ACTION SUMMARY

JNo.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1B	Crossville storm-water control	TDEC	"We highly value good water quality in Obed WSR!"
1C	Mining on New River tributary	Water Pollution Control Div	"We oppose issuance of ARAI' and NPD S permits!"
2B	Recyclable litter	Marge Davis	Support campaign to pass bottlebill
2C	Harmful stripmining operations	Gov. Bredesen/Comm. Fyke	"Support bill authorizing stop-work authority for mining!"
3D	GMP for Cumberland Gap NHP	Superintendent	Comment on preliminary alternatives
4A	Roadless Rule for Cherokee NF	Gov. Bredesen	"Submit petition for protection of inventoried roadless areas!"
4B	ORV regs for national forests	US Forest Service	"Proposed regulations need to be strengthened!"
5A	Proposed Interstate 3	FHA (+ various copies)	"I oppose this destructive and expensive highway!"
6A	TVA's land divestiture	Your U.S. Rep. and Senators	"TVA must keep public lands in public hands!"
7A	National Parks' management	Sen. Alexander	"Tell USDOL motto echoes NPS's basic mission!"
7B	Attempts to sell off national parks	Your Congressman	"Strongly oppose Pombo and Tancred bills!"
8A	Arctic Refuge	Your Congressman, now!	"Defeat budget resolution if it contains drilling provision!"
8B	Endangered Species Act	Your Senators	"TESRA (HR.3824) must be defeated!"
9A	Senate resol. on global warming	Sen. Alexander	"Tackle this Earth-threatening problem without delay!"

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1414; Fax 456-2461
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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Bredesen
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bill Frist:
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-1264
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e-mail: <http://alexander.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

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.hcy.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.

TCWP: 130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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1. WATER-QUALITY THREATS TO OBED AND BIG SOUTH FORK

1A. BSF Nominated for "Most Endangered River in America"

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

Because of major threats to its water quality, the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River has been nominated for *American Rivers'* list of "Most Endangered Rivers." The National Parks Conservation Association, TCWP, Tennessee Clean Water Network, and Southern Environmental Law Center are partner organizations in the nomination.

The primary criteria by which nominated rivers are judged are, (1) the magnitude of the threat to the river, (2) a major action order being made in the coming year that affects that threat, and (3) the regional and national significance of the river.

The Nomination Form cites the Big South Fork's protected status as a National River and Recreation Area and the high dollar value of the area's recreational activities (\$10–16 million per year), as well as the presence of at least 26 species of freshwater mussels (five of which are federally listed) and at least two federally listed fish species (duskytail darter and blackside dace).

The Nomination also notes the resurgence of coal mining (e.g., see §1C, below) which has devastating impacts to water quality from acid mine drainage and sedimentation. The upcoming mining of the Koppers Coal Reserves, which lie beneath the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area, will add significantly to sedimentation problems that are diminishing water quality of the New River and the Big South Fork. TVA is completing an Environmental Impact Statement that will govern the leasing of coal on the 50,000-acre Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area. If the area is opened up to large-scale surface mining, this could set back the natural recovery of the New River and the Big South Fork by 50 years.

Rivers that have received the "Most Endangered" designation in previous years have benefited from the intensely focused media and public attention that the report receives.

1B. A measure that would protect water quality in the Obed WSR

There has been an ominous worsening of water quality in the upper Obed. With pollution appearing in measurable quantities as far downstream as Potter's Ford, the segment of the river that has been designated as "non-supporting" now extends far enough downstream to cross the Obed Wild & Scenic River (WSR) boundary.

Because most of this pollution comes from fast-growing Crossville, TCWP recently wrote to

the Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) requesting that the city of Crossville be added to the Phase-II Stormwater Control Mandates list.

The Obed WSR has the highest Water Quality designation, namely, ONRW (Outstanding National Resource Water). However, several of the Obed's headwater tributaries (including the Little Obed River) that drain much of Crossville do not meet this classification and may deteriorate even further because new developments and business expansions, (including a new trailer park) have recently been initiated or are planned for the near future. This existing, and probably growing, pollution of major headwaters clearly endangers the ONRW designation within the WSR boundary.

In a prompt response to the TCWP letter, the Division of Water Pollution Control stated their intention to "evaluate the status for the town of Crossville for inclusion in the MS4 program based on population growth rate, receiving streams determinations and the likelihood for localized adverse impact on water quality."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank TDEC for their intention to evaluate Crossville for the MS4 program. Tell them that you highly value good water quality in the Obed WSR, and that stormwater management planning for Crossville is essential to maintaining the ONRW designation for the Obed.

Write to Edward Polk, Jr., Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, 401 Church St., L&C Annex 6th Floor, Nashville, TN 37243-1534

1C. Nov. 15 hearing on proposed mining that would affect BSF

The New River is one of the two main stems of the Big South Fork, and its watershed is currently under imminent threat of stripmining. Premium Coal Co. of Kentucky has applied for a permit to mine on Buffalo Mountain, affecting 5 tributaries to Lugas Fork, which flows into the New River. The mining would occur on benches that predate the 1977 federal Surface Mine Law (SMCRA), and the mining company claims that re-mining would restore this previously unclaimed site. The Tenn. Division of Water Pollution Control has made a tentative decision to issue both ARAP and NPDES permits.

The Big South Fork has been given the ONRW (Outstanding National Resource Water) designation by the state, and thus merits the most stringent water-quality protection for its immediate tributaries. For ONRW's, the state's Antidegradation Policy specifies that "new discharges or expansion of existing discharges cannot degrade existing water quality." To issue a permit for mining that adversely affects Lugas Fork would appear to be totally incompatible

would appear to be totally incompatible with protection of the Big South Fork's ONRW designation - to say nothing of its national status as the centerpiece of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: To express your concerns, attend the public hearing for ARAP and NPDES permits on Nov. 15, 7 p.m. EST, Cove Lake State Park. If you are unable to attend, send written comments relating to water quality by COB Nov. 29 to Division of Water Pollution Control, Mining Section, 2700 Middlebrook Pike, Suite 220, Knoxville, TN 37921-5602.

2. STATE GOVERNMENT

2A. Legislative Scorecard for 2005

On October 12, Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) released their 2005 Legislative Scorecard to the media. A copy is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Although the scorecard is mostly about legislative actions, it also comments on the executive branch, noting a clear improvement in the Breiden administration on environmental issues and actions. Improvements in 2005 include:

- TDEC's planning and environmental concerns
- The appointment of Jim Fyke and Paul Sloan to the leadership of TDEC
- Restoration of funding for land acquisition
- Establishment of the Heritage Conservation Foundation (with initial emphasis on the Cumberland)
- Successful support of legislation that allows persons other than permit seekers the right to appeal rulings.

The scorecard also notes a couple of issues on which the administration still needs to improve.

Legislators were scored on 21 actions. In the Tennessee legislature, most bills never come up for floor votes but are acted on in committees; and even there, often without a vote. Because of this, plus (or minus) scores are also given for votes in committee and for sponsorship of bills. The highest score in the Senate, 11, was earned by Sen. Jackson (D-25). Other high scorers (scores >5) in the Senate were Henry (D-21), Cohen (D-30), and Kyle (D-28). The highest score in the House, 10, was earned by Rep. McDonald (D-44). Other high scorers (scores >5) were Representatives Briley (D-52), R. Johnson (R-21), S. Jones (D-59), M. Turner (D-51), Odom (D-55), McMillan (D-67), Moore (D-50), Coleman (D-49), and Kernell (D-93). There were quite a few zero scorers, and 6 legislators actually got negative scores.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Study the TCV scorecard. If you reside in the districts of the high scorers, we hope you will express your appreciation. When election time rolls around, this score-

card, as well as next year's, may help you decide how to vote.

2B. Bottle Bill campaign gears up

Container-deposit laws have been working successfully in 11 states, and support for a "bottle bill" has been building in Tennessee. During the legislative session just past, Sen. McNally and Rep. Russell Johnson sponsored such a bill, which, however, never got put to a vote (NL262 §3D).

Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) have made passage of a bottle bill one of the priorities in their 2006 legislative agenda (see §2D, this NL). Sponsors Rep. Russell Johnson of Loudon and Randy McNally of Oak Ridge are finalizing a revised version of the bill for 2006, which, though similar to the 2005 bill, has some important new features. The bill is getting increasing attention from legislators and the administration, as well as continued coverage in the press. Rep. Johnson made the AP wires with his invitation to take fellow legislators and state officials to Maine to see for themselves how a bottle bill works.

To provide data supporting the legislation, *Scenic Tennessee* and the coalition *Tennessee Campaign Against Litter*, on November 5, sponsored a one-day documented litter clean-up along an "X" drawn across the map of our state. Results are being analyzed to determine what proportion of the roadside trash consist of glass, plastic, and aluminum beverage containers (the opposition is claiming an unrealistically low percentage).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: To learn more about the Tennessee Bottle Bill Project, or to help in the effort, visit www.tbottlebill.org, or contact Marge Davis, 615-758-8647, or margedavis@comcast.net.

2C. Urge governor to support bill to authorize stop-work orders in mining situations

[Based on contribution from TCV]

Huge mountain-top coal-mining operations are increasingly threatening East Tennessee, but the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) lacks the authority to bring about effective actions in cases of water-quality violations. This is well illustrated by the recent experience at Zeb Mountain, where the mining permit allows three peaks to be blasted in order to access a very thin seam of coal. A large slide that developed off the haul road caused excessive sedimentation of Dan Branch. This stream, which, prior to the mining, fully supported aquatic life, is now severely degraded. TDEC has issued numerous notices of violation of the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act over the two years since the mining permit was granted, but the mining has continued.

Five agencies (including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) have struggled with an appropriate remediation plan, which requires that mining stop while the remediation is implemented. Mining, however, goes on, and heavily-laden coal trucks continue to use the haul road, built on previous mine spoil, exacerbating sedimentation problems.

TDEC needs to have *Stop Work Authority* to protect not only the waters coming from Zeb Mountain, but waters affected by any future mountain-top mines in Tennessee. A bill to that effect has been before the Tennessee legislature for 2 years now. It will take the Administration's support to get this bill passed. Please phone or write to the Governor to request his support for legislation authorizing TDEC to issue Stop Work Orders in mining situations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Gov. Bredesen (see p. 2) and urge him to support the bill that authorizes stop-work orders in mining situations. Send a copy to Commissioner James Fyke, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, 401 Church Street, L&C Annex, 1st Floor, Nashville, TN 37243-0435; or e-mail to jim.fyke@state.tn.us

2D. TCV's 2005 actions and 2006 plans

[From Tenn. Conservation Voters]

During the 2005 legislative session, Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) worked with lawmakers and other environmental organizations to push several important bills through the Tennessee General Assembly.

- Together with TCWN (the Tennessee Clean Water Network), TCV backed landmark legislation giving citizens and groups the right to appeal water pollution permits issued to industries by TDEC. In the past, only the industries themselves could appeal permit decisions, but now anyone adversely affected by water pollution can have a say (NL262 §3B).
- TCV and TCWN were also successful in upholding a disputed "conflict of interest clause" in the proceedings of TDEC's Water Quality Control Board. Doing so ensured that no Water Quality Control Board member can vote on a permit case if he or she derives significant income from the industry in question.
- TCV worked with the Land Trust for Tennessee and the Nature Conservancy, among others, to pass a bill that clearly defines who does and does not have the right to enforce conservation easements. This law makes it easier and more appealing for landowners to place permanent development restrictions on their property, and is an important step toward the preservation of Tennessee's precious green space.

Planning for the 2006 legislative session is underway. Among TCV's top priorities are the following:

- Passage of a Bottle Bill (see §2B, this NL) to conserve resources and control Tennessee's litter problem
- Passage of legislation that requires TDEC to issue a stop-work order to coal mining operations that pollute waterways.

For more information about TCV and its activities, visit www.TNConservationVoters.org; or contact 615-269-9090 or tcvcd@bellsouth.net.

2E. TCWP comments on strategic directions for state parks

The State Parks Planning staff is currently at work on a document that will provide a strong statement of park mission and strategic initiatives for effective park management (NL263 §3B). Early in October, TCWP submitted comments on several issues we consider pertinent to the planning process. The following is abbreviated from the letter we sent.

1. Land acquisitions should be the major focus of direction and should receive the bulk of available funds. Such acquisition is needed around the boundaries of existing parks (e.g., Frozen Head (see §3A, this NL), as well as for the preservation of currently unprotected lands that have highly significant natural, cultural or historical importance. "No amount of money can recreate the natural beauty of Tennessee once it is gone," said the letter.

2. Needed maintenance on existing structures and infrastructure should be performed before any funds are expended for new structures. TCWP encouraged consideration of new revenue sources, such as a designated portion of certain fees.

3. New recreation areas in state parks should be high-use, low-maintenance, environmentally sound, and relatively inexpensive to create. More and more visitors to our Parks enjoy low-impact recreation such as walking, bird watching, bike riding, canoeing, and nature study. A goal for each state park should be to provide a well-designed and constructed self-guided nature trail that focuses on that park's natural and cultural resources.

4. Golf courses are inappropriate developments for state parks. They are environmentally deleterious (loss of habitat, toxic run-off) and expensive to maintain. Furthermore, they have not met revenue projections, amassing debts that eat into the general fund.

5. Optimally, this plan should result in well-maintained parks with strong interpretive programs that enhance the public's appreciation of each park's unique natural beauty, typical landscapes, or cultural heritage. Performance measures, instead of focusing on manmade additions

to our parks, should focus on the natural areas that have been preserved for future generations.

3. OTHER STATE NEWS

3A. Frozen Head: update on the threat to Love Mountain

The Forestland Group, a timber investment company, owns the 937-acre Love Mountain tract immediately adjacent to Frozen Head State Park and Natural Area (the boundary runs right behind the visitor center). During the summer, the company started to construct a road into the tract, apparently in preparation for logging (NL262 ¶1C).

The state of Tennessee has, for some time, expressed a willingness to acquire important buffer lands around Frozen Head, and has, in fact, purchased a major part of the Bird Mountain tract on the opposite side of the valley. When TCWP contacted Governor Bredesen and TDEC Commissioner Jim Fyke to alert them to the urgency of acquiring the threatened Love Mountain tract, we learned that TDEC had set up a meeting with Forestland to negotiate a purchase (NL263 ¶4A). The meeting was to have been held at the end of August, but was indefinitely postponed by Forestland, which reportedly needed to identify the right people to negotiate with the state.

Unfortunately, the company's asking price is very considerably higher than the state's appraised value, determined by Finance & Administration (F&A), which is the maximum that TDEC may pay under state law. In the meantime, the access road from Flat Fork into the Love Mountain tract continues to be extended by Forestland. However, tree removal has to date been restricted to the right of way.

TCWP has sent a letter to TDEC Commissioner Jim Fyke urging a speedy rescheduling of the negotiation meeting that was originally scheduled for the end of August, and requesting that a citizen observer be allowed to sit in.

3B. The Cumberland Trail traverses Frozen Head

Volunteers coordinated by the Cumberland Trail Conference, with help from Tennessee State Parks have been at work constructing 3 miles of the Cumberland Trail as it traverses Frozen Head State Park & Natural Area. Between November 4 and 6, they built 0.5 mi of trail between Castle Rock East and Castle Rock West, within the Bird Mountain tract that was, not long ago, acquired by the state from Forestland Co.

Eventually, Morgan County will encompass at least 35 miles of the Cumberland Trail. As it reaches the northern state line, the CT will connect with Kentucky's Pine Mountain trail. At the

southern state line connection will be made with the Georgia/Alabama Pinhoti Trail.

To learn more about the Cumberland Trail project, and how to volunteer for trail construction, call 931-456-6269, or visit www.cumberlandtrail.org.

3C. Will Bowater's promise to protect our forests come to naught?

Four months ago, Bowater, the Cumberland Plateau's single largest landowner, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with two national organizations to enhance the protection of its forests (NL262 ¶1B). Now, it appears that the company has for some time been involved in deals to sell off all of its timberlands.

Bowater owns about 400,000 acres of southern timberlands, 320,000 of which are in Tennessee, including 250,000 on the Cumberland Plateau. Most of the timber harvested on these lands supplies Bowater's papermills, such as the one in Calhoun, TN. In the MOU signed with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Dogwood Alliance, Bowater promised (among other things) that it would

- end conversion of natural hardwood forests to pine plantations,
- stop buying from third-party suppliers any pine fiber obtained from such conversion of natural forests,
- adopt the Forest Stewardship Council's shared-wood management practices.

While some smaller parcels, especially those near highways, will probably be sold for residential development, the company is looking for buyers of large parcels who will own the property but contract with Bowater to provide timber from the land for its papermills.

NRDC and the Dogwood Alliance have expressed their hope that Bowater will honor its commitment not to buy timber from pine plantations for its paper mills. A Bowater spokesman is, however, quoted in *The Chattanooga Times Free Press* as saying that, while the company intends to abide by this summer's MOU, it was "an understanding that wasn't binding for Bowater and wouldn't be binding for those purchasing the land."

When asked about the provision in the MOU that the company would not sell or harvest about 7,000 acres in sensitive areas that are of exceptional ecological, geological, or historical significance, the Bowater spokesman is quoted as saying that such concerns "are being considered in our evaluation."

3D. Management Plan for Cumberland Gap National Park

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park has released the Preliminary Alternatives for its General Management Plan (GMP), which will be

in force for the next 15-20 years. Three alternatives are considered:

- A. No Action,
- B. Expanded visitor access,
- C. Greatest potential for visitor access and a greater number and variety of facilities.

In A, the bulk of the Park (70%=14,000 acres) is designated "Wilderness Subzone" and managed under provisions of the Wilderness Act. B and C have a "Natural Zone," that encompasses the 14,000-acre Wilderness Subzone of A (which would continue to be managed as Wilderness) - plus additional land. "[N]atural conditions would predominate, and the emphasis would be on enjoyment of the natural environment."... Facilities in the additional lands "could include roads, trails, and existing parking lots."

In Alternatives B and C, there are two additional zones, namely, Developed Zone, and Cultural Resource Zone. C differs from B in having more of the former, especially near Fern Lake.

To learn more, call 606-248-2817, or access <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>; under "Choose a Park," find Cumberland Gap NHP.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: You can provide comments either in writing (address below) or at one of four public meetings. The meetings will be held at the Visitor Center Nov. 29 and Nov. 30, 1:00-3:00 and 6:00-8:00 on each day. Written comments may be sent by December 31 to Superintendent Mark H. Woods, Cumberland Gap NHP, PO Box 1848, Middlesboro, KY 40965-1848, or e-mailed to CUGA-Superintendent@nps.gov.

3E. A plan to protect Tennessee's non-game species

(Based on TNC's Field Notes)

In 2001, Congress established a new Conservation and Restoration Program through which grants are made to the states for the planning and implementation of wildlife and habitat conservation programs. To receive these funds, each state's fish and wildlife agency must develop a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and submit an action plan to the US Fish & Wildlife Service by October 2005.

In Tennessee, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has partnered with TWRA (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency) in developing the plan. The effort has resulted in computerized models that map species of concern and their habitats, and that describe conservation actions that will be implemented to abate threats to such species. The plan targets 664 non-game species of concern across the state that need special management to keep them off the endangered-species list. For the first time, a combined database has been developed in Tennessee.

To learn more, visit

www.state.tn.us/twra/wildlife/cwcc/cwccindex.html.

3F. Walls of Jericho to go to state

Last year, the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) succeeded in acquiring the Walls of Jericho, a magnificent area in Franklin County in the southern Cumberland (NL259 §1D). FY2006 appropriations included a Forest Legacy Program grant for the Tennessee portion of this tract (NL263 ¶4B). This will allow TNC to transfer the property to the state. The Walls of Jericho will be managed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

4. OUR CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST AND THE USFS

4A. Urge Gov. Bredesen to petition for Roadless Rule in the Cherokee NF

The Clinton Administration's 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule was in trouble from the moment Bush took office. After first delaying implementation of the Rule, Bush's Forest Service sought to weaken it; and, on May 5 of this year, the USFS announced that the Rule would be eliminated altogether. It has been replaced by an optional state-by-state petition process under which governors who are seeking roadless protection for National Forest(s) in their state have the burden of filing a petition (deadline, Nov. 13, 2006) with the Sec. of Agriculture. The Secretary, however, is not obligated to grant the governor's request (NL261 ¶6B). Unless a governor submits a petition, however, the only protections to roadless areas in that state's national forest(s) are those specified by the latest Management Plan for the forest(s) in question.

During the comment period that led up to the May 5, 2005 decision, about 1.5 million citizens went on record opposing the proposal. Governors, too, weighed in: Gov. Bredesen was one of about a dozen who objected strongly to the state-petition process and to the elimination of the 2001 Roadless Rule. After the Bush Administration adopted the new policy in May, several governors announced their intention of filing a petition (NL163 ¶6C). Gov. Bredesen, however, has not yet done so.

Reportedly, the Tennessee Division of Forestry has been seeking to convince our governor that the petition is unnecessary, and that roadless areas in the 635,000-acre Cherokee National Forest are already protected by the Forest Plan. This is definitely not the case. In the 2004 Revised Management Plan for Cherokee NF, areas that

were inventoried as roadless for the 2001 Rule have been assigned to one or more of 11 different "prescriptions" (i.e., classifications entailing different kinds of management). According to the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), this allows road-building and/or logging in 31% of the inventoried roadless areas of the Forest including the popular Side Hollow area (in Carter County) and the Bald Mountain area (in Greene County). And there is an even more important reason for not relying on the Forest Plan: it can be amended at any time under the new "flexible" planning regulations.

In a meeting, last week, conservation representatives explained these matters to Governor's staff and the State Forester. These state officials are now thinking seriously that the roadless areas in the Cherokee NF might, in fact, not be protected by the Forest Plan.

This is why a state petition needs to be filed. The process of doing so should not be labor-intensive or expensive. Thus, the state can simply petition to restore the full protection of the 2001 Rule for 100% of the inventoried roadless areas located within Tennessee. The petition can rely on the assessment, environmental analysis, and the roughly 20,000 Tennessee public comments documented under the adoption of the 2001 Rule. In other words, the case for full protection has already been made by the USFS in the documentation provided for the 2001 Rule. Furthermore, there are very expert volunteers who could assist the state in the preparation of the petition.

A mere 13.4% of the Cherokee NF, namely, ~85,000 out of 635,000 acres, has been inventoried as roadless. The 2001 Rule prohibits construction of new roads in these inventoried areas, but use of existing roads and access (e.g., to private property) is maintained at the status quo level. Furthermore, new roads can be constructed to protect public health and safety, and timber cutting may be done under special circumstances (e.g., for fuel reduction, maintenance of wildlife openings, to improve endangered, threatened, or sensitive species habitat, etc.)

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Gov. Bredesen (address, p. 2) and urge him to petition the Sec. of Agriculture to restore full protection of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule for 100% of the inventoried roadless areas located within Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest. The Forest Plan alone does not protect all inventoried roadless areas, nor is it permanent (see above article). Send a copy of your letter to Commissioner Jim Fyke (Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, 401 Church St., L&C Annex 1st Floor, Nashville, TN 37243-0435; or e-mail: jim.fyke@state.tn.us)

4B. USFS Off-Road Vehicle regulations not tough enough

[From American Lands Alliance]

Final off-road vehicle regulations released by the Forest Service (USFS) on November 2 direct forests to end widespread cross-country travel by ATVs, dirt bikes, and other off-road vehicles. Forests are to designate specific routes (and even limited areas open to cross-country travel) where off-road vehicles may be driven legally.

The new regulations will have no effect on the ground until designations of roads, trails, and areas are completed at the field level. The full text of the regulations may be viewed on <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv>

Preliminary analysis from The Natural Trails & Waters Coalition (NTWC) found that the new regulations fail to prevent the continued creation and use of unauthorized, renegade routes; and that they weaken the agency's obligation to minimize damage and conflicts with other forest users that is required by President Nixon's off-road-vehicle Executive Order 11644. NTWC is urging USFS and its local forest managers to adopt the following measures:

- Require that designated off-road vehicle routes be manageable and enforceable, minimize damage to wildlife habitat, and head off conflicts with other forest users and neighbors.
- Adhere strictly to the Presidential Executive Orders 11644 and 11989 regarding that "[off-road vehicle] areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage" and "conflicts." The new regulations shift this responsibility by directing agency staff to designate routes "with the objective to minimize" these avoidable problems.
- Assess which trails are best suited for hiking, biking, and horseback riding; which routes are sustainable for off-road vehicle routes; and which roads are needed for public access by assessing the impacts of vehicles on wildlife, water, neighbors, and other forest users.
- Dedicate funds for implementation and enforcement of trails, routes, and roads.
- Require that "collaboration" to designate routes be balanced so that the millions of "quiet recreationists" and other stakeholders are heard—including, hunters and anglers; homeowners, ranchers and farmers; outfitters, guides, and other small business owners; and hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: For more information on how to get involved on the Cherokee NF, contact Jason Kiely, Natural Trails & Waters Coalition, 406-543-9551, jason@wildlandspr.org

4C. New Regional Forester for South

[Information from ATC's Voices]

The US Forest Service's Southern Region has a new Forester, Charles (Chuck) Myers. He be-

ganhis USFS career in 1979 in the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania, held several positions (including Supervisor of the Monongahela NF) in the Eastern Region, and, most recently, served in the USFS's Washington, DC, office as director of forest management. The Southern Region, which he now heads, contains national forests covering 12.6 million acres in aggregate. One of these is the Cherokee NF at 635,000 acres.

5. THE SMOKIES

5A. Proposed new Interstate-3 could Impact Smokies

If construction of a new interstate highway, I-3, between Savannah and Augusta, GA, and Knoxville, TN, is approved, one possible route would run along the western edge of the Smokies – through the land recently protected as a result of the land deal with ALCOA (NL256 ¶5A; NL258 ¶4A). But, any of the conceivable routes would have devastating impacts, wherever the road crosses our mountains – destruction of large areas of mature forests, disruption of crucial watersheds, destruction of wildlife habitats and corridors, noise, and air pollution. I-3 would also cut across one of the most primitive and remote sections of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.), probably in the longest section of designated wilderness traversed by the 2,175 miles of the A.T.

I-3, a brainchild of Georgia's Congressional delegation, has been funded for a \$1.32-billion feasibility study, buried in the \$286.4 billion recently enacted highway bill. Most of the support comes from major retailers such as Wal-Mart and Home Depot. On the other side, North Georgia and Western North Carolina residents, who turned out in the hundreds for the information meetings, are greatly opposed to the proposal and have formed the Stop I-3 Coalition (visit www.stopinterstate3.com and www.stopi-3.org).

Among arguments advanced by the Coalition are the following.

- The road would cause disastrous environmental damages (see above).
- Construction would be extremely expensive at a time when vital programs are being cut to provide revenues for reconstruction after Katrina/Rita.
- Vaguely promised economic benefits to the area would not materialize (see economic analysis posted on www.stopi-3.org). The main beneficiaries would be the big retailers bringing in imported goods from cheap-labor countries, further undermining manufacturing jobs in the USA.
- I-3 will not solve Atlanta's traffic problems (as claimed by proponents). Atlanta needs expanded mass transit and other creative solutions.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHA) will be in charge of contracting out and overseeing the funded feasibility study. The best of all possible worlds would be an early finding that an interstate cutting through the Blue Ridge Mountains is not feasible and that the proposal should be permanently put to rest. If the feasibility study proceeds, however, it must be conducted according to the FHA guidelines (posted on www.stopi-3.org), which call for full public involvement, as well as participation by every level of government.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Express your opposition to I-3 by contacting J. Richard Capka, Acting Federal Highway Administration Director, FHA, 900 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20590. The Stop I-3 Coalition recommends that you send a short Fax or a postcard (because sealed letters in envelopes are greatly delayed by anthrax screening). Send copies to Senators Alexander and Frist, to your Congressman, and to Gov. Bredesen (addresses on p.2).

To keep informed on this issue, contact Gregory Kidd, gkidd@NPCA.ORG, at the National Parks Conservation Association.

5B. Release of Draft EISs is Imminent

There are strong indications that a critical point is near for two important issues: the North Shore Road, and the Elk mount area. Comment periods for both of these Draft EISs are likely to begin in just a few weeks, and almost certainly by early January. As soon as we know more details, we'll try to reach as many of you as possible by e-mail, and we'll post an Alert on our web site. Please check out www.tcvp.org at frequent intervals.

5C. Elk reintroduction program may be continued

The Great Smoky Mtns. NP has begun the process of extending the experimental elk reintroduction program through 2007. Starting in 2001, 52 elk, in two batches, were introduced in the Cataloochee Valley. At the present time, the number of elk is still so small that a single event could eliminate the herd. Furthermore, research data on issues such as movement, mortality, and human interaction have been limited by the small numbers of elk. Hearings on extending the reintroduction program were recently held in North Carolina.

6. TVA: BAD AND GOOD

6A. Keep public lands in public hands!!

[Information from William C. Minser]

There are 293,000 acres of public lands scattered around TVA reservoirs in 7 states, and the

most vocal member of the TVA Board, Bill Baxter, apparently believes that lands that are not generating revenue for the agency should be sold. This mindset disregards reservoir management plans generated with careful staff analysis and massive public involvement, and subsequently accepted by the TVA Board.

It seems inconceivable that one member of the Board should be able to counteract the work of his agency and the will of the people. It further betrays the promise and purpose of TVA, which acquired its lands (often by eminent domain) from people who were told that they were giving up ownership for the public good. Now, these lands are being sold for private and corporate profit for developments from which the general public is usually excluded!

TVA's public lands are used for outdoor recreation by large numbers of citizens who, in survey after survey, have expressed their desire to have them left in a natural state. These lands belong to all Americans; private developments should take place on private lands.

Mr. Minser has compiled a list of several reservoirs on which land sales have either occurred, or been considered. The following are some examples.

- On Tellico Reservoir, 116 acres sold for Rarity Pointe development.
- On Watts Bar, 1,700 acres to be given to counties for sale for residential and commercial developments (TVA would get half of the proceeds).
- On Nickajack Reservoir, 750 acres at Little Cedar Mountain to be sold for private development.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: If you are outraged by this betrayal of TVA's purpose to serve the public good, tell your representative and senators (addresses on p.2), and send a copy to the editor of your paper.

6B. Green Power demand and supply

Having, for the first time achieved a surplus of green power by the completion of 15 additional wind turbines, TVA is now in a position to renew efforts to expand demand for green power. Currently, only 89 of TVA's 158 distributors offer Green Power Switch (GPS), which is sold in 150-kwh blocks for an extra \$4 a month. Students have successfully pushed an initiative to get UT to join the program, and the university will buy 6,075 mwh per year.

According to GPS News, purchasing two blocks of GPS for one year is the equivalent of planting an acre of trees in the Tennessee Valley, or not driving your car for 4 months. The current total of GPS being purchased by utility subscribers provides a benefit equal to removing 6,200 cars from Valley highways for a full year.

In a recent national poll, 75% said that their utility should have some form of green power;

but 80% (!) were unable to name even one form of renewable energy. There is a great educational void, not only about the sources of energy but about implications to the environment and human health. Stephen Smith, executive director of SACE (Southern Alliance for Clean Energy) has suggested that the key to increasing participation in Green Power programs may be to move from voluntary to mandated programs for utilities. This has been done in 22 states (none in the Southeast) that have set renewable-energy goals for their utilities.

7. OUR NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

7A. USDO releases a new draft for altering the national parks' mission

[Source, New York Times, 10/21/05]

In our last issue (NL263 §7A) we described a plan by Deputy Assistant Sec. of the Interior Paul Hoffman that would fundamentally alter the National Park Service's (NPS) primary mission in a manner that would totally destroy our national park system. The most basic feature of Hoffman's proposed National Park Management Policy was to change the definition of "impairment" (related to the 1916 Park Service Organic Act that our parks are to be kept "unimpaired"). In Hoffman's plan, impairment would be limited to any action that would "permanently and irreversibly adversely (affect) a resource or a value." Such an impossibly high standard would obviously exclude most harmful activities and developments from being classified as impairments.

On October 18, the Interior Department released (for a 90-day comment period) a new draft, which does not go as far as the earlier Hoffman version but still embodies some of the philosophy that our parks are resources not to be protected but to be exploited. The following crucial sentence would be removed from the NPS's mission statement: "Congress, recognizing that the enjoyment by future generations of the national parks can be ensured only if the superb quality of park resources and values is left unimpaired, has provided that where there is a conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant."

Several changes seem to be directed to the use of snowmobiles in Yellowstone (recall that Mr. Hoffman's prior job was director of the Chamber of Commerce in Cody, WY). Thus, the new policy would eliminate the requirement that only motorized equipment with the least impact be used in national parks; would lower air-quality standards; and would strip away language about preserving a parks' natural soundscape.

It appears that the revised policy is a defensive document that was rushed forward to head off the more sweeping damage that Mr. Hoffman's first draft threatened to do. According to the *NY Times* article, "It is a tribute to the National Park Service veterans who worked on it that they were able to mitigate so much of the harm, even though they, too, were working directly under Mr. Hoffman's eye."

The USDI draft may be viewed on <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/waso>.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Sen. Alexander (address on p.2), who has a strong interest in national parks. Urge him to question USDI on the need to revise NPS management policy at this time, and why these revisions so basically change NPS's mission, which has worked so well for almost a century to protect our national treasures.

7B. Bills that would sell off parks

Two House bills would sell off major portions of our National Park System. They are authored by Reps. Pomo (R-CA) - who is also trying to wreck the Endangered Species Act (98B, this NL) - and Tancred (R-CO).

Tancred's bill would sell off 15% of America's public lands. In Pomo's bill, 15 National Parks, covering millions of acres, that receive less than 10,000 visitors per year, would be sold for "energy and commercial development." In addition, his bill would open the Arctic Refuge (see 98A, this NL) and would open more of our coast to drilling.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Congressman (address on p.2) to oppose these two abysmal bills. Instead, they should support the National Park Centennial Act 2005 (see NL263 97C).

8. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES: HOPE REMAINS ON TWO

8A. Arctic Refuge: a glimmer of hope remains

(Information from the Wilderness Society)

On Nov. 3, the Senate voted on the 2006 Budget Reconciliation bill. First, it barely (51:48) defeated an amendment by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) that would have removed Arctic Refuge oil drilling from the bill. Seven Republicans supported the Cantwell amendment [Chaffee (RI), Coleman (MN), Collins (ME), DeWine (OH), McCain (AZ), Smith (OR), and Snowe (ME)]; but three Democrats voted against it [Akaka (HI), Inouye (HI), and Landrieu (LA)]. Afterward, the Budget bill itself was narrowly approved 52:48.

In the House, various Committees will undertake several votes on the Budget Reconciliation bill in the week of November 6, with a final floor action expected on November 10. Some hope de-

rives from the fact that a significant number of Republican House members are outspoken in their opposition to Arctic Refuge drilling in the Budget Bill.

Arctic Refuge drilling is not the only bad feature of the House bill. The environmental provisions read like a wish list drafted by major industries. Hundreds of thousands of acres within our National Parks, Wilderness Study Areas, National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests, and BLM lands could be easily privatized (sold at just \$1000 an acre). More oil drilling would occur in ecologically-sensitive coastal areas. One-third of our nation's oil-shale resources -- as much as 2.5 million acres -- would be auctioned off in a single sale, with buyers shielded from environmental laws.

Once the House has voted on its Budget Reconciliation bill, the House and Senate bills must be negotiated into a single one through a House-Senate conference. Both Houses of Congress would then need to pass the conference version of the Budget Reconciliation legislation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: While it looks bad right now for the Arctic Refuge, the battle is not over. Each of the steps still to be completed in the process will involve very close votes, so we urge you to keep up the pressure by contacting your Representative (see p.2).

8B. The Senate can still save the Endangered Species Act

Near the end of September, the House, by a vote of 229 to 193, passed Rep. Pomo's (R-CA) disastrous Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act (TESRA, HR3824), which would wipe out 30 years of species recovery in one stroke. The White House supports Pomo's bill. We must do everything in our power to get it defeated in the Senate.

Ads supporting Pomo's bill claim that in the ~30 years since the Endangered Species Act (ESA, passed 1973) has been in effect, "less than 1% of species listed as endangered have been recovered." What a lie! Here are some of the facts.

- More than 99% of the 1,855 total listed species, have been saved from extinction.
- About 50% of all listed species have either stabilized or are recovering.
- For species that have been protected for more than 15 years, 2 out of 3 are stable or recovering.
- Species that have increased in the wild (sometimes dramatically) under ESA protection include (and these are just the well-known ones):
 - Bald eagle
 - Gray wolf
 - American alligator
 - Brown pelican
 - Aleutian Canada goose
 - Peregrine falcon
 - Whooping crane

- Greenbackcutthroat trout
 - Peninsular bighorn sheep
- Other well-known cases of species survival include the California condor, blackfooted ferret, green sea turtle, Florida manatee, key deer, and gray bat.

TESRA would totally cripple ESA. In the name of improving species protection, TESRA does the following:

- Eliminates the protection of tens of millions of acres of critical habitat. (Fact: species that live in designated critical habitat are twice as likely to survive as those without this form of protection.)
- Removes from scientific experts the authority of determining what constitutes appropriate scientific evidence, and transfers this authority to Interior Secretary Gale Norton.
- Eliminates the protection for "threatened" species, i.e. species not yet considered endangered.
- Requires taxpayers to pay developers and other landowners to comply with the ESA--in essence paying people not to break the law. (Developers could plan projects that allow them to extort money from the government.)
- Makes it extremely difficult to list any species in the first place. If Rep. Pombo's TESRA had been in effect then, not even the bald eagle would have qualified for listing.
- Opens every stage of the listing process to industry lawsuits.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: It is urgent that you contact your senators without delay and ask them to vote against TESRA (addresses on p.2). The above article cites plenty of arguments you can use, but just one or two will do. Also, thank Reps. Cooper and Gordon, the only two Tennessee Congressmen who voted against TESRA in the House.

9. GLOBAL WARMING

9A. Actions on the International, national, and state levels

International: Kyoto follow-up

A meeting of nations in Montreal, November 28 - December 9, will address the quest on how to build on the Kyoto Protocol for actions to be taken around the world. The Bush Administration's bucking of the science (NL263 ¶8A) means that our country will not be participating, even though, with only 3% of the World's population, we consume 25% of the world's energy. In view of the recent alarming information about the change in rate of global warming (¶9B, below), we would need 10-20 times the Kyoto goals to avoid catastrophic effects; however, Kyoto would at least be a start for us.

National: Time for the Senate to act on their resolution.

During this summer's debate on the energy bill, the Senate went on record (by a vote of 53:44) as favoring the enactment of mandatory controls on emissions of the gases that contribute to global warming (NL262 ¶8D). "It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should enact a comprehensive and effective national program of mandatory, market-based limits and incentives on emissions of greenhouse gases that slow, stop, and reverse the growth of such emissions at a rate and in a manner that, (1) will not significantly harm the United States economy; and (2) will encourage comparable action by other nations that are major trading partners and key contributors to global emissions." This resolution is now Energy Bill Amendment 866. Though nonbinding, it is significant in erasing the Senate's 1997 vote against mandatory pollution limits, which the Bush Administration has relied on to justify inaction for the past five years.

The time has come for the Senate to act on its resolution. We need to communicate with our senators, acquaint them with some of the facts summarized in ¶9B and ¶9C, below, and remind them of the resolution. Given the Bush Administration's leadership vacuum on this vital issue, we are looking to the US Senate to address this extreme threat and to send a message to the world that the US is ready to play a responsible role.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Thank Sen. Alexander (address on p.2) for voting for the Resolution Energy Bill Amendment 866, and urge him to work with his colleagues to ensure that the Congress tackles this urgent problem (see ¶9B and 9C) with sound domestic policy.

Sen. Frist voted against the Resolution. Urge him to keep informed on this vital issue (see ¶9B and 9C) and on the ever-growing body of scientific evidence that demonstrates the need for speedy action.

State: Can Tennessee emulate North Carolina?

Increasingly, state and local governments are taking steps to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (see NL263 ¶8B). In the Southeast, the state of North Carolina has emerged as a leader on this issue. The state legislature passed a bill to create a high-level commission to examine global-warming impacts and economic opportunities associated with addressing such adverse impacts. The commission may also recommend a state goal for reducing global-warming emissions.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask your state legislators (see Political Guide for addresses) to take a serious interest in the problem of global warming.

and to consider state action similar to that enacted in North Carolina.

9B. Positive feedback loops bringing world climate to the tipping point

Global warming has been worsening markedly over recent decades, but now there is evidence for an abrupt change for the worse; we may soon be approaching a tipping point where increases will no longer be gradual and near-linear, but sudden and dramatic – a “runaway” climate scenario. This is due to positive feedback loops that are most evident in the Arctic.

Since 1978, the polar ice cap has shrunk by 30%; more than a million square miles of sea ice have disappeared in less than a quarter century, an area the size of Texas plus Arizona. This is not just a short-term anomaly, but a clear downward trend. Bad as this rate of loss has been, the most recent acceleration has been “stunning.” Figures released near the end of September by NASA and the National Snow and Ice Data Center have revealed a record minimum in extent of Arctic sea ice.

This minimum follows four consecutive years of below-average ice cover at all seasons. The start of the melting period in the spring has occurred earlier than average; and the natural rebound from the low summer covers that normally occurs during the winter has not happened during these past four years.

The explanation may be found in positive feedback loops. The initial warming (greenhouse effect) sets off a chain of events that causes increased warming – above and beyond that due to the greenhouse effect. Sea ice reflects up to 80% of the sun’s energy back into space, whereas dark open ocean absorbs a lot more energy. As the water warms, the re-growth of (light-reflecting) ice becomes much more difficult – thus starting a vicious cycle. Feedback situations have been identified on land too. Thus, melting of the permafrost has led to methane emissions from exposed ground, and methane is a greenhouse gas. This year saw the warmest Arctic summer for 400 years.

Polar bear experts convened by the World Conservation Union have concluded that global warming could cause polar bear populations to decline by >30% in 35 years. Most, if not all, of the summer ice is likely to be gone by the end of the century, and maybe as early as 2070 – a condition that has not occurred for a million years. This would spell the demise of polar bears.

9C. Some effects of global warming

- We are all aware that sea levels will be rising as a result of two factors: massive ice melts, and the fact that as water warms it takes up more space. Most people are not aware, however, that sea levels are rising even faster than they

have in the past 50 years. NASA’s satellite observations show an average increase of 3 mm/year from 1993-2005 (that’s a total of 3.6 cm in just 12 years). Rising levels will lead not only to astronomically high economic losses, but to huge demographic shifts, with attendant social and political upheavals.

- Most of us are aware of the likelihood of major species extinctions, but we usually think of these being mostly on land. Ocean dwellers will, however, not be exempt. Acidification of the oceans (through uptake of excess CO₂) will affect marine ecosystems in numerous ways, one important one being calcification that is essential to such organisms as mollusks and corals.
- Due to predicted changes in major ocean currents, some places, such as the British Isles, are likely to get colder, rather than warmer. Effects of altered world-wide weather patterns are too numerous and complex to be elaborated here (one example: a 1°C rise in temperature is predicted to reduce water availability by 10% in a temperate climate). They include changes in food production, energy use, and spread of infectious diseases.
- There is good evidence that the severity of major storms is already increasing. As reported in SCIENCE, of Sept. 16, two groups of scientists, while finding no long-term trend in the number of storms per year, did find a sharp increase in the severity of storms. Globally, during the past 35 years, category-4 and -5 storms climbed 57% from the first half of the period to the second.

10. OAK RIDGE: TCWP COMMENTS ON ED-6 ASSESSMENT

TCWP has commented on DOE’s Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed conveyance of DOE lands to the City of Oak Ridge (NL263 99B). The land in question is Parcel ED-6 at the western edge of the City and abutting the 3,000-acre Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE). TCWP requested that the proposed action be changed and the EA altered to reflect these changes.

In our comments, we identified several deficiencies in the EA, the most significant being the following:

- The boundary between ED-6 and the BORCE should follow the topography, instead of being drawn as a straight line. The City has agreed not to develop about 50-100 acres in the western portion of ED-6 and to transfer this acreage to TDEC, for addition to the BORCE. DOE should draw the conveyance boundary so as to reflect this plan, conserving as much developable land as reasonable in ED-6, but removing sensitive

lands, tributary streams, and steep slopes, for addition to the BORCE. These lands contain largestand of deep forest-interior habitat that is the most significant ecological value of this portion of Black Oak Ridge. It is a habitat that some songbirds require for breeding, and that is rapidly disappearing from our landscape. According to the draft EA, ED-6 contains 174 acres of this habitat type, part of an 863-acre contiguous tract that is mostly in the BORCE.

- The environmental impact of constructing a new 30-ft wide boundary-patrol road should be discussed in the EA. While the draft EA projects the construction of such a road as a direct outcome of the ED-6 conveyance, it does not show its likely route or evaluate its environmental impact. TCWP opposes construction of such a road. If located along the presently drawn western boundary of ED 6, it would cross steep ridges and stream tributaries. Construction would cause erosion (with adverse effects on the watershed), would affect wildlife habitat, and would destroy the forested buffer between the residential development and the BORCE. The road is not needed for fire protection in ED-6; as noted in the EA, such protection is adequately covered by existing resources.

Additional points made in our comments concern the EA's failure to show location of biologically sensitive areas and of endangered or threatened plants in ED 6.

11. TCWP NEWS

11A. Sandra has a new e-mail address

sandra@sandrakgoss.com

11B. 2006 Board, Nominating Comm.

The following were elected unanimously at our Oct. 15 Annual Meeting:

President: Jimmy Groton

Vice President: Frank Hensley

Treasurer: Charlie Klabunde

Secretary: Carol Grametbauer

Directors:

Tim Bigelow

Larry Pounds

Mary Lynn Dobson

Liane (Lee) Russell

Ralph Harvey

Edward Sonder

Cindy Kendrick

Nominating Committee:

Jean Bangham

Frank Hensley

Marion Burger

11C. For Cindy: deep gratitude

As we are nearing the end of Cindy Kendrick's three years as TCWP president, I want to express my deepest gratitude for what she has contributed to our organization and to the protection of Tennessee's precious natural environment. These have certainly been three of the

most exciting and productive years for TCWP in recent times! Despite a very demanding job at ORNL, Cindy has found the energy to labor at all hours (almost 7/24!) with the greatest devotion and intelligence. Not only has she delegated wisely, but she has handled a huge number of issues on her own, writing knowledgeable letters or comments, attending meetings or hearings, and establishing meaningful contacts. Her advice on strategies TCWP should pursue has been infallible - always informed by unassailable facts, clear thinking, and by her wisdom about human behavior. And on top of everything, she's just been a *joyful* person to work with!

I am so grateful that she will be staying on the Board! (Lee Russell)

10D. 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: sandra@sandrakgoss.com

Work day at the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren, Saturday, November 19

Saved two decades ago through the efforts of TCWP, the Oak Ridge Cedar Barren is now a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. On Nov. 19, we will be continuing our work to remove exotic invasive plants. The Barren, located behind Jefferson Junior High School in Oak Ridge, is one of only a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee. The area is subject to invasion by leather-leaf viburnum, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, and multiflora rose. We will work to remove the shade-producing plants, so that prairie grasses can get the sun they require for growth.

Volunteers should arrive in the Jefferson Junior High parking lot at 9:00, with sturdy shoes, loppers, gloves, and water.

TCWP Holiday Party,

Thursday, December 8, 7:00 -9:00 p.m.

Jenny Freeman and Bill Allen keep up a holiday tradition of hosting TCWP's Annual Holiday Party. As experienced Holiday Party attendees can attest, the gathering is warm and friendly, with opportunity to reflect on and laugh over the year's accomplishments.

Jenny and Bill's house is at 371 East Drive, Oak Ridge. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to the function. Drinks will be furnished. Be sure to RSVP (yes *qno*) by December 4 at 865-482-5980 or jenny@etebo.org.

Burgess Falls outing, Saturday, December 10

We will tour the Burgess Falls State Natural Area, near Cookeville, which features three waterfalls. The topography is gentle, and the outing, led by Hal Smith, is rated easy/moderate.

Participants should meet at 9:30 a.m. (EST) in the Oak Ridge Food City parking lot on Illinois Ave., or at 10:15 (CST) in the Burgess Falls parking lot. After touring Burgess Falls, we will caravan to Cumberland Mountain State Park restaurant for lunch at approximately 1:00 CST.

11E. Auction of canoe to benefit TCWP

Marion and Charlie Burger are generously donating a canoe to be auctioned off to benefit TCWP!!! Here are the particulars:

Dagger lake canoe, 15 ft. "Reflection" model, green/gray, oak/wicker seats, like-new condition. Has been hanging in a dry basement since 1994, not counting about five excursions. Includes two paddles. A photo of the canoe will be posted on the TCWP website.

Minimum bid, \$325. Bidding opens Monday, November 14. Contact Marion or Charlie at (865) 483-9407 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to place a bid (\$25 increments, please), check the current bid, or for information or inspection. Bidding closes at 8 p.m. on November 23.

Get tranquility transport across picturesque late-fall lakes, and simultaneously support TCWP's work to protect them and other natural treasures! Many thanks to the Burgers for this generous donation!

10F. Report on past activities

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

National Public Lands Day Celebration Helps Worthington Cemetery

The annual work day at the Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area (behind Elza Gate Park) had 19 participants. There was much removal of wisteria and other exotic invasive plants. Though the dry weather hindered planting, some water-tolerant plants were put in by the beaver pond. Thanks to Sunlight Gardens for contributing the plants, to TVA staffers Mark McCreedy and Wes James for helping to coordinate this year's event, and to TVA's Natural Heritage Program for loaning us weed wrenches.

Annual Meeting was informative and fun

About 30 folks enjoyed the October 15 Annual Meeting at Historic Rugby. The program, which was focused on the Cumberlands, featured two speakers. (1) Alliance for the Cumberlands Executive Director Katherine Medlock spoke on the National Heritage Corridor feasibility/suitability study now under way. (2) Oak Ridge National Laboratory Corporate Fellow Virginia Dale summarized a study of the most desirable ecological outcomes in the northern Cumberlands.

11G. Selected TCWP actions since NL 262 (July-October)

[Contributed by Cindy Kendrick]

Meetings organized and/or attended

TCWP Annual Meeting
Water Issues, Service, and Mailing Committees (multiple meetings and workshops)
TCWP Board (monthly meetings)
Intergroup strategy session on Obed/Emory water quality
Tennessee Forests Council (TFC) Steering Committee (meeting and conference calls)
Tennessee Forests Council public seminar on sustainable forestry
Alliance for the Cumberlands Steering Committee (meetings and conference calls)
TWRA Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy
Symposium presented at ORNL on preservation of Obed and Big South Fork
Exhibits (4) at ORNL for Community Shares Campaign
Secret City Hiking Day, planning meeting
Habitat Conservation Plan informational meeting
Environmental groups' meeting with Paul Sloan, TDEC
Water Pollution Control, to discuss coal-mining issues
Office of Surface Mining public scoping meeting on stream buffer zone EIS
TCWP newsletter workshop
Community Shares Circle of Change Committee
Community Shares annual campaign kickoff
Community Shares Combined Federal Campaign kickoff breakfast
Heritage Conservation Foundation state bill signing at Burgess Falls
Norris Dam State Park Town Hall Meeting
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy Global Warming Citizens Interest Group meetings
DOE information meeting on transfer of land parcel ED6
Turkey Creek Wetland Advisory Committee
Letters/Comments
Letters to Wamp, Frist, and Alexander opposing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Letter to TVA opposing Nickajack land swap
Comments on EA for DOE transfer of land parcel ED6 to the City of Oak Ridge
Letter to DOE-ORO Mgr on transfer of land parcel ED6 to the City of Oak Ridge
Letter to TDEC advocating inclusion of Crossville in EPAPhase I stormwater controls
Letters to Governor Bredesen and TDEC Commissioner Fyke, plus multiple contacts w/staff, in support of state purchase of Love Mtn tract

Request to Office of Surface Mining to hold stream buffer zone scoping hearing in Knoxville
Scoping comments to Office of Surface Mining for stream buffer zone EIS
Input for Tennessee State Parks master plan
Co-signed with Public Interest Research Group comments on EPA mercury rule
Research and correspondence with TDEC urging the state to petition for roadless rule protection for Cherokee NF
Letter to Wamp on National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act
Letters opposing bills that allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Actions

Conducted Worthington Cemetery work day - invasive eradication and native plantings
Co-sponsored Secret City Hiking Day
Hosted Pigeon River rafting trip outing
Co-hosted TDEC Appreciation Luncheon
Conducted specific initiatives to protect sensitive land along Tennessee streams
Supported NPCA nomination of the Big South Fork Cumberland River as an American Rivers' "Most Endangered River"
Issued e-mail action alert for Stream Buffer Zone EIS scoping comments
Guided hikes at Colditz Cove State Natural Area and Burnt Mill Bridge
Presented public talk on TCWP activities for ORNL Community Shares campaign

- Installing solar equipment in a residence will be a tax-saving event in 2006/2007. The credit is 30% of the cost (including labor), up to \$2,000 per system. Some states (e.g., Maine) have additional credits.
- KORNet wants everyone to know that the DiscoverET.org directory has over 2,700 Websites in 425 categories ranging from adventure clubs to youth sports. (Organizations can add THEIR Website free of charge.) There is also a searchable calendar of regional events, headlines from area news organizations, air quality and weather data, and links to blogs, polls, discussion groups and bulletin boards.
- AFORR's web address is now <http://www.DiscoverET.org/aforr> but the "traditional" address, <http://www.kornet.org/aforr/>, will forward to that URL for the indefinite future.
- Former Vice Presidential Core's excellent speech at the 2005 Sierra Summit is available online at <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierrasummit>
- "Being Caribou" details the journey of the filmmaker and her companion as they followed 120,000 caribou on their annual migration to give birth in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. To get a free copy, visit www.alaskawild.org.
- A VHS or DVD of the recent PBS show "Global Warming: The Signs and the Science" is available by calling 1-800-PLAY-PBS.
- Once Upon A Time Wilderness Adventure Trips will be offered by Ed and Arleen Decker for 4 one-week periods in April and May 2006 in the Appalachian Mountains of East Tennessee. The bunkhouse is also available as a hostel for the remainder of the year and can be used for family reunions or retreats. Check out the website www.onceuponatimeadventures.com.

12. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

- **Events and deadlines calendar.** (For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, sandra@sandrakgoss.com)
 - Today, call your Congressman to oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge (§8A, this NL).
 - Nov. 14-23, Bid on the canoe to benefit TCWP (§11E, this NL).
 - Nov. 15, Cove Lake SP, hearing on Ligas Fork mining (§1C, this NL).
 - Nov. 19, Cedar Barron clean-up (§11D, this NL).
 - Nov. 29 and 30, Cumberland Gap NHP meetings on the CMP (§3D, this NL).
 - Dec. 8, TCWP Holiday Party (§11D, this NL).
 - Dec. 10, Burgess Falls outing (§11D, this NL).
 - Dec. 31, Deadline for comments on Cumberland Gap CMP (§3B, this NL).
- **Resources**
 - Some vehicles labeled "hybrids" don't deserve the designation. The Union of Concerned Scientists has a website that explains the basic principles at work, rates individual models, and gives an overview of federal, state, and local incentives. The US market now boasts eight models, including several that do not merit the "hybrid" label. Go to www.hybridcenter.org

