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12. ACTION SUMMARY

#No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
1B	Land acquisition for our Parks	Sec. Kempthorn, Rep. Ruhl	"Must fill in park boundaries that Congress authorized in the past!"
2A	Obed and BSF inholdings	Senators: Alexander, Corker; Reps. L. Davis, Wamp	"Unacquired lands pose grave danger to these two parks. Please secure acquisition funds!"
3A	Preserving Heart of Cumberlands	Sen. McNally and others	"Support the \$82M bond issue for this visionary initiative!"
4A	Federal funds for 5 Tenn. projects	US Rep. and Senators	"Support funds for these projects. Appropriate \$450M for LWCF!"
7A	Preserving remaining Nat'l Forests	US Rep. and Senators	"Co-sponsor National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act!"
7B	Protecting small streams, wetlands	Your US Representative	"Co-sponsor Clean Water Authority Restoration Act!"
8A	Reducing power-plant emissions	Sens. Alexander, Corker	"Thank you, Sen. Alexander!" "Sen. Corker: please co sponsor!"
8C	Global warming	US Rep. and Senators	Urge them to co-sponsor the bills discussed in 58C.
9A	CNEP siting	DOE, by June 4	"Do not settle on unspoiled ORR land. Need land-use plan for ORR!"

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Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Bredesen
Respectfully yours,

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To call any Rep or Senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772
URLs: <http://www.house.gov/lastname/> and <http://lastname.senate.gov/> General contact info: <http://www.hcv.org>
With mail to Congress 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. CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE: TIME TO COMPLETE LAND ACQUISITION FOR THE NATION'S PARKS

1A. Administration proposes special Centennial funds

Our National Park System will be 100 years old in 2016. To celebrate the Centennial, the Administration has proposed funding increases over the next 10 years to consist of, (a) \$1 billion (i.e., \$100 million/year) for operating funds, and (b) potentially an equal sum (the Challenge Fund) for matching private (philanthropic) gifts on behalf of "signature" projects/programs. If private gifts total \$1 billion, the national park system would gain an additional \$3 billion over the next 10 years.

So far, this is only a proposal and there has not yet been any action in the Congress. Part (a) is straightforward and deserves our support, though the sum needs to be increased. Part (b) has several potential problems, among them the way "signature" projects are chosen. As originally proposed, a list of these is to be generated by the Department of the Interior and submitted to the President by the end of May. Such a list would have little flexibility, would provide insufficient opportunity for public scrutiny, and could be vulnerable to political influence. Because of the recognition of such possible pitfalls, the report to the President may end up outlining a process for the inclusion of projects, rather than submitting a list of specifics. It is to be hoped that an effective and equitable process for implementing the Centennial Fund will be developed by NPS and/or the Congress.

1B. The Administration proposal fails to address the most essential need: land acquisition

Many of the parks authorized during the Park Service's first century are far from complete. Let's start the second century by completing them!

Most people do not realize that drawing a park-boundary map to accompany authorizing legislation does not create a park; there has to be funding to purchase all the land within that boundary. Until this happens – until NPS fulfills its commitment to private landowners to buy their land for the park, these owners can do anything they want to with the tract(s), even if it causes irreparable damage to park qualities. In addition, the price of land has a way of escalating, especially if such land is in or near an authorized park, to the point where the government becomes unable to afford the purchase. We have prime examples of these problems in our backyard – the Obed WSR and the Big South Fork NRR (¶2A, below).

In 2000, during his first presidential campaign, George Bush promised full funding for the

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at its annual authorized level of \$900 million. His presidential budgets, however, have virtually zeroed LWCF appropriations. The LWCF, which is fed by royalties from offshore oil revenues, has a huge amount of money in the bank, but this is a paper value only because the portion (the great bulk) of the LWCF that is not appropriated for land acquisition in a given year is used to pay for totally unrelated expenses for the purpose of reducing the general deficit.

If the Administration and the Congress really love our parks and want to celebrate the Park System's Centennial, the most important thing they can do is to provide the funds for completing the work of the first century before the second one gets under way. NPS must be enabled to buy the inholdings and eliminate the threat "from within." The urgency for this is compelling!

WHAT YOU CAN DO: This is a most urgent Action Call! Let the Administration and the Congress know that the most important thing they can do for our nation's parks is to acquire the lands that will fill in the park boundaries that Congress authorized in the past – to do this requires making full appropriations from the LWCF. Thus, can we truly celebrate the National Park Centennial!

Contact:

- Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, US Dept. of the Interior (1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240, www.doi.gov)
- Rep. Nick Rahall, Chairman, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515
- Send copies to your own representative and both senators (to whom you might mention the Obed and BSF examples from ¶2A of this NL).

2. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

2A. Obed lands in jeopardy

The Obed Wild & Scenic River measures a total of 45.2 river miles (Obed, Clear Creek, Daddys Creek, and Emory segments, combined). This means that, under the terms of the 1968 National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, the Obed WSR could contain 14,464 acres (i.e., 320 acres per river mile). Unfortunately, the boundaries that were drawn with the authorization encompass only about 5,100 acres.

But even this severely limited acreage is not yet a reality, though more than 30 years have now elapsed since the Obed WSR was authorized. Over 1,000 acres within the authorized boundary are still in private ownership, and that constitutes a rapidly increasing danger to the character of the park. The Cumberlands have become a booming

real-estate market. Land values have escalated super-sleely and residential developments are popping up all over. Nothing in the law prevents people who own land within the proclamation boundary from selling it to the highest bidder.

Fortuitously, a TCWP member recently became aware that about a mile of riverside land along Clear Creek, in plain view of the Lilly Bluff overlook, was up for sale. Fortunately, a generous TCWP member was able to procure this property and will protect it until such a time as the National Park Service (NPS) is able to buy it.

Right now, it would take about \$3 million for NPS to acquire all the private inholdings that remain in the Obed WSR – about 15 times what it would have cost had the land been acquired soon after the park was authorized. Yet it is only a fraction of what it *would* cost a very few years from now. There are two things that need doing, one general and one specific. (a) The NPS must be given enough funds to complete the parks that have been authorized (see ¶1, this NL). (b) The senators and congressmen who represent our area must secure appropriations for completing land acquisition for the Obed WSR (and for the BSFNRR, which has a similar problem). TCWP has acquainted itself with details on inholding, and is currently attempting to arrange meetings with our area legislators to brief them on the urgent need for funding. Personal letters from you would be very helpful.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Senators Alexander and Corker, as well as Representatives Wamp and Lincoln Davis (Addresses on p.2) and tell them of the danger posed by unacquired inholdings. Urge them to secure funding for acquisition of inholdings in the Obed WSR and the Big S. Fork NRR. It's about time these parks were completed – 31 and 33 years respectively, after they were authorized!

2B. Wilderness eligibility assessment for BSFNRR

The Big South Fork NRR has announced that park staff and Southeast Regional Park Service employees are meeting to determine which park lands, if any, possess the necessary characteristics to be considered wilderness under the terms of the 1964 Wilderness Act. If eligible lands are identified by this assessment, funding will be sought for a formal Phase-II Wilderness Study (with public involvement), the conclusion of which would constitute an agency decision. It will then require an act of Congress to create a wilderness area.

3. THE TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE

3A. It's crunch time for the Heart of the Cumberland Initiative; act TODAY!

The legislature is in the midst of dealing with the budget, and the time is NOW to express our support for the Heart of the Cumberland initiative, which will require an \$82 million bond issue (NL272 ¶1).

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to protect significant regions of the Cumberlands that are threatened with development. Don't let it go by!

ALL our own senators and representatives need to hear from us, but ESPECIALLY members of the Senate Finance Committee—prime among them, their chairman, Randy McNally (who has expressed himself negatively about the initiative).

Here is the whole committee:

Randy McNally, chair; Douglas Henry, vice chair; Tim Burchett, secretary; Diane Black, Raymond Finney, Joe Haynes, Rosalind Kurita, Jim Kyle, Mark Norris, Bo Watson, John Wilder. If you live in the district of one of these, it's particularly important that you contact him/her. Plus, EVERYBODY should contact McNally.

Detailed information on the proposal can be found at <http://www.tcwp.org/act11.shtml>.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: The message to your legislators and Senate Finance Committee (esp. Sen. McNally (see above) does not need to be long, or complex. Mainly ask the legislators to support the Governor's proposal to protect significant areas of land in the northern Cumberland Plateau while benefiting the region economically. ACT TODAY—time is getting short!

Addresses are as follows:

sen.firstname.lastname@legislature.state.tn.us
Thus, Randy McNally's address is:
sen.randy.mcnelly@legislature.state.tn.us

3B. Action postponed on dangerous water quality bill, SB.1253/NB.0965

This bill, sponsored by Sen. Burchett and Rep. Harrison, would exclude narrow run-off ditches that are dry most of the year from the definition of "waters" for purposes of the "Water Quality Control Act." Subsequent to publication of the last Newsletter, TCWP and individual members worked hard to defeat this dangerous bill, pointing out to legislators that pollution dumped into such "dry ditches" will find its way into the river the next time it rains. Our efforts were at least partially successful; the bill, instead of being passed, was referred to an 8-member legislative study committee (4 each from House and Senate) that will report back to pertinent committees by Feb. 1, 2008. There are plans to hold public

hearings and solicit information and opinions from all interested groups and persons.

3C. "Bottle bill" SB.1408/HB1820 dead?

The TN Deposit Beverage Container Act, sponsored by Sen. Jackson and Rep. M. Turner (NL272 §2A) was taken off notice in the Senate Government Operations committee on May 9. It is pending in the House Government Operations committee.

4. OTHER TENNESSEE ISSUES

4A. Tennessee projects needing FY08 federal acquisition funds

[Information from the Wilderness Soc. and Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition]

Funding from the FY08 Interior Appropriations bill has been requested for 5 Tennessee projects. Four of these would be funded by the LWCF:

- Rocky Fork (in Unicoi County), which contains 1.5 miles of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) and is contiguous with another 2.5 miles (NL270 §2D), \$7 million;
- Shook Branch parcel of the A.T., \$0.5 million;
- Cherokee National Forest - Ripshin Mountain Wetland, \$3 million;
- Chickamauga Chatanooga National Military Park, \$2.2 million.

The Forest Legacy Program, which requires matching state monies, would fund the fifth project, namely,

- Big Forks, for which \$1 million has been requested.

Our support is needed not only for these specific Tennessee projects but for the LWCF appropriation as a whole. As discussed in §1B of this NL, the annual authorized level for the LWCF is \$900 million, but the Bush budgets have virtually zeroed the requested appropriations. At least \$450 million needs to be enacted this year.

The Forest Legacy Program, too, has been starved in recent years. This Program conserves privately owned forest lands and requires matching funds. At least \$192 million of federal funds are needed this year for 82 requested projects in 41 states, but the President has proposed only \$29 million.

It is a sad fact that the US Forest Service, in prioritizing land acquisitions, has in recent years ignored the requirement in the LWCF Act of 1965 that "not more than 15% of the acreage added to the National Forest System... shall be west of the 100th meridian." This requirement was included in the Act because the task of acquiring land in the east is less complete and the eastern national forests are much more fragmented by inholdings. Now, even more than then, the situation is critical,

especially in the Southeast, which is experiencing explosive population growth and development.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask your representative and both senators (addresses on p.2) to urge the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees to fund the 5 Tennessee projects listed above, and to appropriate at least \$450 Million and \$100 for the LWCF and the Forest Legacy Program, respectively.

4B. Rugby State Natural Area grows to 450 acres

[Information from *The Rugbeian*]

Last year, a 323-acre tract within the Rugby National Register Historic District was designated as the Rugby State Natural Area (NL272 §1C). This was part of a larger acreage that *Historic Rugby* had acquired over the years, and the tract in question was sold to TDEC (Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation) prior to its Natural Area designation.

TDEC has now purchased an additional 127 acres from *Historic Rugby*, increasing the size of the State Natural Area to 450 acres, and protecting the Historic District on the south and east from development. The area includes Allerton Ridge with the Massengale Homeplace, which will become an outdoor exhibit that interprets Appalachian life in early Rugby.

4C. Status of development proposed for Norris Dam State Park

[Contributed by David Reister]

[Background, from NL272 §3D: In November, the Campbell County Commission voted to fund construction of the "Lighthouse" convention center and hotel complex in the forests of Norris Dam SP. The project will supposedly include a hotel, restaurant, wedding chapel, ice rink, fake waterfall, 70' lighthouse, and tram to the marina.] The following is an update by David Reister.

Bill Owens (a Knoxville lawyer) is trying to develop a convention center on public land in Norris Dam State Park. His partners are the Campbell County Commission and the manager of the marina at the Park. The public land was conveyed from TVA to the Park with an easement that requires that TVA approve in writing any plans. Furthermore, only the State Park can propose plans to TVA. The TCWP strategy is to prevent the State Parks from proposing to build a convention center.

In 2005, TCWP contacted TDEC (the State Parks Division is part of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation) and received the following response from Jim Fyke (head of TDEC): "We have not yet received a proposal from Campbell County in this regard. However, please be assured a meeting will be held at the park seeking public input before any consid-

eration for, approval of this project would take place."

On April 19, 2007, *The Knoxville News Sentinel* reported that TDEC's general counsel had given the go-ahead for public meetings on the convention center. When TCWP questioned a TDEC contact, he provided the following response: "When I asked our General Counsel about the Norris Dam item that ran in *The Knoxville News Sentinel* on April 19, he said the newspaper's blurb in the Business section provided less than full context regarding his communication with Campbell County officials."

"The Department's most recent correspondence with Campbell County officials offered guidance on how the public input process would work in this situation, as part of many steps remaining before the proposed project could proceed. We also shared a lengthy list of other reviews and approvals that would be required for this capital project to move forward. I assume we will continue to dialogue with local officials as those making the proposal have a number of additional milestones to meet."

TCWP will continue to monitor and oppose this project.

4D. Tennessee leads states

In number of caves

Tennessee has more than 6,500 caves, most of them on private land. The Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is now using a federally funded Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) to help safeguard privately owned caves and the animals that live in them. An important part of such protection is keeping pollution out of surface water that becomes groundwater which drains into our runs and creeks.

Under the LIP program, the federal government pays 75% of costs for cleanup, restoration, and improvements. The matching funds come from TNC and/or the landowners. "In-kind" contributions through volunteer labor may also count toward the match.

5. THE SMOKIES and NEARBY

5A. Area legislators urge monetary settlement in lieu of North Shore Road

In a letter of March 28, area legislators asked Sec. of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne to "begin immediately to work with us to provide a cash settlement to the citizens of Swain County, North Carolina, rather than further constructing the [North Shore] road." The letter was signed by the majority of the North Carolina Congressional delegation (Sen. Elizabeth Dole and 7 of the 13 Representatives), and virtually the entire Tennessee

delegation (Senators Alexander and Corker, and 7 of our 9 Representatives, with only Duncan [R-1] and Mashburn [R-7] missing).

The signatories cited the "significant environmental and economic costs associated with building the North Shore Road" and the commitment made to Swain County in 1943, and recommended three steps:

- Within 90 days, endorsement by the National Park Service's Environmental Impact Statement of the above position.
- Administration support for legislation that would re-program remaining EIS funds (~\$6 million of the original \$16 million) to be given to Swain County as the first installment of the settlement.
- An FY 2009 budget request for the next installment of the full cash settlement to Swain County, with funds to come from outside the NPS budget.

The letter concludes: "The solution we are endorsing will protect America's most visited national park, save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, and fulfill a promise to the citizens of Swain County, NC."

This turn of events was made possible through the defeat in the November '06 election of road advocate Rep. Charles Taylor (R-NC 11) by Heath Shuler, who had made a major campaign issue of supporting a monetary settlement in lieu of the road. The majority of the Swain County Commission, including its chairman, have also seen the wisdom of this solution. Interest from a \$52 million settlement would add \$2.5 million to the County's current \$9 million budget, helping to improve local schools.

It seems unlikely that any legislation for the monetary settlement will be introduced until after NPS issues its long-delayed EIS. In the meantime, North Carolina's other Senator, Republican Richard Burr, a road proponent, attempts to throw cold water on the monetary settlement. "[W]e do not have assurances that the federal funding needed to fulfill the commitment made to ... Swain County is achievable, nor is there agreement within the community that this is the right decision," he said in a statement issued March 28. Question: where does he think the ~\$600 million needed to build the road would come from?

5B. Fate of Foothills Parkway Sec. 8B

Scoping meetings were held March 19 and 20 as the first phase of an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) for the proposed Section 8B of the Foothills Parkway. The Parkway has been completed or almost completed between Chilhowee, at the western end, and Wear Valley (Sections H and G open to traffic; Sections F and E under construction). At the eastern end, the short Section A (5.6 miles) has also been constructed from the western end, at I-40, to Cosby. The three intermediate Sections (B, C, D), totaling 33.5 miles arc, as yet, un-

developed. Several of those who attended the scoping sessions for Section 8B felt they should remain so.

The Park Service (NPS) has proposed four concepts for Section 8B, which extends from Pittman Center to Cosby, the right-of-way averaging 1,000 ft in width: (a) no action; (b) Foothills Parkway construction (~14 miles); (c) a Foothills Trail (~14 miles of one of three types (ranging from a 2-3 ft wide to a 10 to 12 ft wide asphalt path); and (d) a Parkway (6 miles)/Trail (8 miles) combination. People who commented were asked for their preference among the concepts, or for suggestions of alternative concepts. Comment deadline ended April 20.

You can learn more by going to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cwpn> and selecting Foothills Parkway Section 8B EIS. The next series of public meetings will present the EIS study alternatives and discuss their associated impacts and costs. Our input will be important at that stage.

6. TVA

8A. TVA's Strategic Plan should focus on environmental stewardship

Over the past month or so, TVA has been seeking public input on its forthcoming Strategic Plan. At several public meetings, citizens expressed their concern that TVA's preoccupation with producing ever more electric power appears to be trumping what should be the agency's objective of environmental stewardship. Validating this concern was a recent talk by TVA's president during which he remarked that TVA promoting energy conservation would be "like McDonald's telling you not to eat hamburgers." (See Southern Alliance for Clean Energy's Monthly E-newsletter of 5/5/06)

TCWP submitted comments to TVA which read as follows (in part). "TCWP ... urges TVA to remember the objectives for which it was created and to make environmental stewardship a main component of its Strategic Plan.

"This environmental stewardship applies not only to TVA's management of its lands and waters, but also to what TVA emits into the atmosphere—which has a huge potential of affecting the environment of this region and, indeed, of the world. As the largest public power producer in a nation that has until now contributed disproportionately to the atmospheric gases that are causing the Earth to warm dangerously (and with potentially catastrophic effects), TVA must now take a leadership position in reversing this trend. TVA must be a leader in promoting energy efficiency and the clean production of energy.

"We challenge TVA to meet its specific prediction of a 2% annual growth in energy demand

by setting specific green goals for meeting this demand. The increased demand should be met through energy efficiency and by addition of power sources that do not produce greenhouse gases."

TVA's website for the Plan is <http://www.tva.com/stratplan/comments.htm>. The deadline for public comments was May 9.

8B. The upcoming Watts Bar Plan; status of Whites Creek SWA addition

Some time ago, TCWP urged TVA to give Small Wild Area (SWA) designation to the ~88-acre shoreline parcel (#237) immediately upstream from the Whites Creek SWA (NL262 ¶5A). All three Alternatives developed in the May 2005 Draft Watts Bar Land Management Plan and EIS in fact do give it this listing and place it in Zone 3 ("Sensitive Resource Management," the highest level of protection). Parcel #237 is described as "Proposed addition to Whites Creek Small Wild Area."

Finalization of the Watts Bar Plan was subsequently delayed to allow TVA to develop its Land Policy (NL271 ¶4A), but release of the revised Draft Plan is now expected for early July, with a 45-day comment period to follow. TCWP and AFORR will co-sponsor an information session with TVA officials to review the Plan on July 26 in Oak Ridge (details later; or call Sandra at 865-522-3809). As far as we can ascertain, designation of Parcel #237 has remained the same as in the May 2005 version.

Land allocations in the revised Plan are more important than ever. While TVA's new Land Policy bans land sales for residential developments, it allows TVA to consider leases or sales of lands for commercial recreation or industrial use, provided the parcels under consideration have been allocated for such uses in the land management plan.

8C. Lawsuit against TVA air pollution may reopen

Among major emission sources that contribute to air pollution in the Smokies, TVA's coal-fired Bull Run power plant is the most proximal. In 2001, environmental groups (led by NPCA) sued TVA under the Clean Air Act because the agency had made significant modifications at Bull Run without installing best available pollution-control technology.

At that time, a US District Court refused to consider the case on its merits, ruling that the statute of limitations had run out. A couple of months ago, this decision was reversed by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. The case will now go back to the District Court to be considered on its merits.

6D. TVA making more green power than it's selling

TVA's green power -- wind, solar, and land-fill methane -- is paid for by voluntary purchases of blocks of 150 kwh (about 12% of the average family's monthly consumption) at \$4, a higher rate than what TVA charges for its "conventional" power. For several years now, TVA did not produce nearly all the green power it got paid for. Since March 2006, however, the situation has been reversed. Hopefully, increases in the production of greenpower will continue.

8E. Susan Williams' term on the Board is expiring

Soon after being appointed to TVA's new 9-member Board, Susan Williams took the lead in getting the agency to formulate a new Land Management Policy. In this, she was supremely successful (NL271 ¶4A). Unfortunately, her term is expiring this summer. We'll miss her.

7. NATIONAL ISSUES

7A. National Forest Roadless Areas: reinforcements and attacks. There needs to be a law!

[Sources: The Wilderness Soc. and EarthJustice]

Almost from the moment it came to power, the Bush Administration waged a relentless campaign to undo the protection that 58.5 million acres of undeveloped national forest lands had received from the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Last year, the USFS actually repealed the Rule. In September, however, federal judge Elizabeth LaPorte ruled that this repeal was illegal (NL270 ¶7). Two months later, the court strengthened this decision by blocking road building associated with post-2001 oil and gas leases in roadless areas. There were 327 such leases in 14 national forests and grasslands.

The court decision upholding the Roadless Rule is, unfortunately threatened on various fronts.

- The Administration is expected to appeal Judge LaPorte's decision
- The Administration is encouraging governors to file petitions (NL257 ¶1). Fortunately, of the 6 governors who have filed, 5 have asked that their roadless areas be left as originally inventoried. One (Idaho) has asked that over half a million acres of the state's roadless areas be opened to development.
- Wyoming has asked that an earlier injunction against the Rule be reinstated in the state.
- The Tongass NF, which has 9 million roadless acres (more than any other national forest), is not covered by Judge LaPorte's decision.

What is clearly needed is to give the Roadless Rule the force of law, and this requires new legislation. The National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2007 ("A bill to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System") has now been introduced with bipartisan sponsorship in both Houses of Congress. In the House, chief sponsors are Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Jim Ramstad (R-MN); sponsors of the more recent Senate companion bill are Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and John Warner (R-VA). We have urged Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) to become an original co-sponsor.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your representative and both senators (addresses on p.2) to co-sponsor the bipartisan National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2007. This bill would protect the last remaining wild places in our national forests from most logging and road construction. Roadless forests are the sources of clean drinking water for a very large proportion of our population; they provide habitat for thousands of special plant and animal species, and they furnish recreational opportunities for millions of Americans.

7B. Protection must be restored to small streams and wetlands

[Information from American Rivers]

A 2006 Supreme Court decision (Rapanos and Carbell cases) left in legal limbo the protection that small upstream waters and wetlands have enjoyed for more than 30 years under the Clean Water Act. Polluters are now flooding the courts with appeals to destroy these waters, which constitute 60% of the nation's stream mile and provide drinking water supplies for more than 110 million Americans. Congress could resolve this problem by passing legislation to restore full federal protection for all our waters.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your Representative (address p.2) to co-sponsor the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act of 2007 (sponsored by Reps. Oberstar, Dingell, Ehlers).

7C. Sen. Alexander co-authors bill to cut power-plant emissions

On April 19, along with Sen. Lieberman (I-CT), Sen. Lamar Alexander introduced a clean-air bill that sets schedules for powerplants to reduce emissions. Significantly, it includes a cap-and-trade provision for CO₂. Sen. Alexander, who has for some time been concerned about air pollution over the Smokies, is a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, a key environmental subcommittee of which is chaired by Sen. Lieberman. Alexander is also the co-chairman of the TVA Congressional caucus.

The bill would:

- Cut SO₂ emissions (which cause acid rain) by 82% by 2015 (from 11 million tons to a cap of 2 million tons).
- Cut emissions of NO_x (which lead to ozone pollution) by 68% by 2015 (from 5 million tons to a cap of 1.6 million tons).
- Cut mercury emissions at each power plant by 90% by 2015. This would reduce the risks this neurotoxin poses to children and pregnant women.
- Implement a cap, trade, and offsets program to reduce CO₂ emissions which would be capped at 2.3 billion metric tons (bmt) in 2011, then 2.1 bmt in 2015, 1.8 bmt in 2020, and 1.5 billion bmt in 2025 and beyond. With flexible compliance, companies may use offsets to meet their carbon-emission reduction in a flexible and cost-effective manner.
- Discourage the switching from coal to natural gas to generate electricity as a means of compliance.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Express your thanks to Sen. Alexander for introducing this bill. Urge Sen. Corker to become a co-sponsor (address on p. 2).

7D. Small increase in stateside funding for the LWCF

Appropriations from the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) come in two major categories (with subdivisions): (a) federal projects and (b) state and local projects, which require matching funds from the states. In ¶18 of this Newsletter, we have discussed federal projects, noting that the Bush-year budgets have shrunk these to a small fraction of the authorized level. The Bush budgets have been even harsher on the "stateside" portion of the LWCF, in several years zeroing it out altogether (Congress usually managed to enact at least a small amount of funding).

At the end of 2006, Sen. Alexander (R-TN) managed to include a special LWCF provision in a bill that opened a new area off the coast of Louisiana to offshore oil drilling. According to this provision, 12.5% of future federal revenues from this development are designated for state grants under the LWCF. Funding could eventually reach \$100 million per year. Louisiana will receive 37.5% of the money, with the remainder distributed to the other 49 states according to a formula. Provided the total reaches \$100, this would mean an average of \$1.3 million per state per year.

7E. Funding for conservation programs

[Source: The Wilderness Society, 4/5/07]

The Administration budget for FY2008 made severe cuts in already badly underfunded conservation programs. Both House and Senate, however have passed budget resolutions that

would begin to restore essential funding to items such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, endangered species protection, National Wildlife Refuge System, and other critical land management and wildlife programs. The final FY2008 budget will be worked out by a House-Senate conference committee.

7F. Nationwide Permits are re-issued

Earlier this year, TCWP submitted comments opposing the proposed reissuance and expansion of the Corps of Engineers' Nationwide Permit (NWP) program (NL271 ¶6D). NWPs provide a "streamlined" approval process for projects that have so-called "minor" environmental impacts. They lack basic Clean Water Act safeguards, such as public notice requirements and a thorough evaluation of less damaging alternatives. Our comments noted that these rubberstamp NWPs would lead to much more than "minimal harm" to the environment, and we urged that strict limits be included on wetland and stream destruction and that NWPs not be applied to developments in floodplains.

Unfortunately, the Corps has now re-issued all existing NWPs, effective 3/19/07, but issued 6 new ones. Several NWPs deal with mining and with oil & gas extraction, which certainly can cause much more harm "minor" environmental impacts. The documents may be viewed on http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/nwp/nwp_final.htm.

8. GLOBAL WARMING

"It may seem impossible that a technologically advanced society could choose, in essence, to destroy itself, but that is what we are now in the process of doing."

Elizabeth Kolbert, in *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*.

8A. Parts 2 and 3 of the latest IPCC report describe impacts and possible remedies

On February 2, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released Part I of its Fourth Assessment (which may be viewed on www.ipcc.ch). In it, the scientist-authors concluded with a confidence level of greater than 90% that greenhouse gases from human activities are the main causes of global warming (NL272 ¶8A).

Part 2 was released on April 6, and Part 3 on May 4. The IPCC reports include input from more than 1,200 authors and 2,500 scientific expert reviewers from more than 130 countries. They have an exceptional degree of scientific credibility and thus the potential to be highly influential in the formation of climate policy. Part 2 details the probable disastrous impacts of climate

change; Part 3, the partial remedies – the choices we have to reduce emissions and avoid the most dangerous consequences. A final synthesis will be published late in the year.

Part 2. "Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability"

This 1572-page report was endorsed by 120 countries, including the USA, but some statements in the 21-page summary were weakened by China, Russia, and Saudi Arabia, making the document less quantified and striking than it could have been. The report is, however, no longer based on models, but on hard empirical evidence: human-caused warming "over the last three decades has had a discernible influence on many physical and biological systems." Coastlines, for example, are already showing the impact of sea-level rise.

With the atmospheric buildup of greenhouse gases that has already occurred (a 70% increase since 1970), temperatures and sea levels will continue to rise for decades (and longer and to a greater degree if we don't start acting now). The resulting impacts from droughts (famines) and flooding will be felt most severely in regions that are already poor. Even in overall prosperous societies, poor people will be hit the hardest. [Projection for the Southeast USA, one of the areas most sensitive to climate change: forests may convert to grasslands and savannas because of drought, insect infestation, or fire. More frequent storms may impact forest canopy and promote growth of brush and non-native species.]

As for the rest of life on Earth, there is going to be a mass extinction of species within the next 100 years unless climate change is limited. In addition to stressing the extreme urgency of reducing greenhouse gas buildup in the atmosphere, the report underlines the need to deal with the effects of climate changes that have already occurred.

An independent study published in late March by the International Institute for Environment and Development addresses the risk of flooding. Coastal areas lying at lower than 33 feet above sea level are located in >180 countries and are home to 634 million people now (and a larger number as populations grow); 75% of them in Asia.

Part 3. Options for reducing emissions

This report deals with remedies – the options we have for reducing global warming emissions. It concludes that, using *known* technologies, significant progress towards stabilizing and reducing greenhouse-gas emissions can be achieved NOW at *relatively low cost*. This explodes the Bush Administration's argument that a strong attack on climate change would cripple the economy.

While, in the long run, we'll need to make major investment in carbon-free energy sources,

there are no constraints on what we can do *right now* – with existing technologies – to make our cars, appliances, and buildings a whole lot more energy efficient. In addition, alternative fuels such as cellulosic ethanol do not require long-term development. At the same time, we must not delay limiting (and in many cases, eliminating) the growth of polluting technologies, such as coal-fired power plants that lack carbon sequestration capabilities. Also, we can right now take action to reduce deforestation.

Many of the proposals in the report are already contained in bills that have been introduced in the Congress (§8C, below). The recent Supreme Court decision (§8B, below) should also help.

"We aren't going to prevent global warming; that horse is out of the barn and disappearing over the ridge. But we can keep it from getting worse than it has to be – keep it miserable instead of catastrophic." (Bill McKibben, *Forest* magazine, Spring 2007)

8B. Supreme Court rules that EPA can regulate CO₂

On April 2, the US Supreme Court by a vote of 5 to 4 declared that CO₂ is a pollutant and that the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has the authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate it. Sounds obvious, doesn't it? Not to the Bush Administration, which had claimed for years that since CO₂ was not considered to be a pollutant when the Clean Air Act was passed, and was not specifically mentioned, it could not be regulated under that law.

The Supreme Court ruling, which concerns vehicular emissions, does not, however, require the EPA to take action, although the only way it could avoid doing so would be to make a determination "that greenhouse gases do not contribute to climate change." A White House spokesperson said: "...we're going to have to let EPA take a good look at it, and they're going to have to analyze it and think about what it means for any future policy decisions." This negative attitude of the Administration increases the necessity as well as the momentum for Congress to pass strong global warming legislation (§8C, below).

The Court's majority opinion, written by Justice John Paul Stevens, rebukes EPA for having offered a "laundry list" of reasons not to regulate CO₂. The dissent written by Chief Justice Roberts (with Scalia, Thomas, and Alito joining) does not consider the merits of the case and is based solely on the assertion that the ~30 plaintiffs (a coalition of states, cities, and environmental groups) lacks the legal "standing" to sue. The majority notes that it is only necessary for one of the many plaintiffs to meet the definition of "standing," and that the state of Massachusetts clearly does.

The Court's ruling will be very beneficial to the efforts of California (and 11 other states) to limit tailpipe emissions, beginning with 2009 models, of vehicles sold in their states, with emissions becoming stricter each year until 2016. Automakers went to court to halt the California program. Their challenge should now lose validity.

While the case was brought over the issue of tailpipe emissions, the Court's statement that the federal government has clear jurisdiction over "any air pollutant" that may reasonably be anticipated to endanger "public health or welfare" should broaden the application of the finding. Specifically, EPA's refusal to regulate CO₂ emissions from powerplants cannot be challenged.

In fact, in a second Clean Air Act case decision of April 2, the Supreme Court reopened a federal enforcement effort against Duke Energy Corp. under the "new source review" provision. NSR requires older power plants, which had been permitted to pollute under the Clean Air Act's "grandfather" clause, to conform to regulations once they add capacity or make renovations.

8C. Numerous pending bills address global warming

[Sources: Union of Concerned Scientists, Environmental Defense]

As shown by the IPCC reports (§8A, above), our window of opportunity is closing rapidly, so we have to act fast, and we must get it right the first time. Congress must not settle for a bill that just pays lip service, and it must, at this time, avoid peripheral issues or long-term solutions (e.g., a hydrogen economy) that do not require immediate, concrete actions.

There is general agreement that the most effective way (and perhaps the only meaningful one) to reduce greenhouse gases is to attach a significant price to carbon emissions. This can be done either through a carbon tax or through a mandatory hard cap on carbon emissions from all sectors of the economy. (A) Gore, Jr., has proposed for 14 years that we ought to reduce employment-based taxes to near-zero and replace them with pollution-based taxes, principally on CO₂.)

Emissions must be reduced to levels that scientists have determined to be sufficient to stabilize the climate. Among the bills listed below, a couple do not meet this goal.

- The Safe Climate Act (HR.1590), sponsored by Rep. Henry Waxman's (D-CA), would gradually reduce U.S. global warming emissions to 20% of 2000 levels by 2050. The bill achieves these targets through a flexible economy-wide cap-and-trade program for heat-trapping emissions. Currently, the bill has 131 co-sponsors.
- The Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act (S.309) was introduced in February 2007 by

Senators Bernard Sanders (I-VT) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) with 10 co-sponsors. The bill's targeted reductions are similar to those in the Waxman bill. As the Chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Sen. Boxer has held multiple hearings and has worked tirelessly on global warming issues.

- The Climate Stewardship Act (HR.620), sponsored by Representatives John Oliver (D-MA) and Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) focuses on curbing emissions in the next decade and sets a long-term target for reducing emissions by 70% between 2000 and 2050 (i.e., to 30% of 2000 levels). This target should be increased to 80% emission reductions (i.e., aim for 20% of 2000 levels) by 2050 in order to avoid the worst effects of global warming. The bill currently has 119 cosponsors, many of whom overlap with those supporting the Waxman Safe Climate Act.
- The Global Warming Reduction Act (S.485), sponsored by Senators John Kerry (D-MA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) freezes emissions levels in 2010 and then gradually reduces them by 65% below 2000 levels by 2050. As in the case of the Oliver/Gilchrest bill, the target should be increased by 80% below 2000 levels. There are currently no additional cosponsors on this bill. Like the Waxman proposal, Senator Kerry's plan would achieve the targets through a flexible, economy-wide cap-and-trade program for heat-trapping emissions.

While not specifically addressing reductions in greenhouse gases, several other bills would contribute to that goal.

- The Lieberman-Alexander bill for power-plant pollution (§7C, above) includes a cap-and-trade provision for CO₂.
- The Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act (S.357), introduced by Senators Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), would increase average fleet fuel economy to 35 mpg by 2019. This would reduce U.S. global warming emissions by 358 million metric tons each year and save consumers >\$40 billion in annual fuel costs by 2025.
- HR.969 by Representatives Tom Udall (D-NM) and Todd Platts (R-PA) would require utilities to obtain 20% of their power from clean renewable energy sources (like solar and wind) by 2020. This would reduce global warming emissions by 15%.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- (1) Urge your Senators (addresses on p.2) to support S.309 (Sanders, Boxer), the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act. Also urge their support for S.357 (Feinstein, Snowe), the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act.
- (2) Urge your US Representative (address on p.2) to support HR.1590 (Waxman), the Safe Climate

Act. Also urge his support for HR 969 (Udall, Platts), which requires 20% renewable energy sources for power plants.

- (3) To find out the position of presidential candidates on global warming, go to www.heathison.org.

8D. Mandatory CO₂ caps gain support

Early this year, 10 Fortune-500 companies joined with environmental groups to form an alliance – the United States Climate Action Partnership (USCAP) that called for strong national legislation to cut global warming pollution (NL272 ¶8C). One of USCAP's 6 recommendations was to establish a mandatory cap on CO₂ emissions.

A number of other groups and individuals have subsequently called for similar regulations.

- The CEOs of America's largest automobile companies (General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, and Toyota of North America), who pledged to support mandatory caps on carbon emissions, as long as such caps cover all sectors of the economy.
- Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), who, in the past, has often been a champion of the automakers as they fought environmental regulations.
- Calpers, the huge California state pension fund.
- Other major institutional investors, including Merrill-Lynch.

8E. Global Warming and Global Security

[From the *New York Times*, 4/20/07]

In mid April, 11 retired admirals and generals released a detailed 68-page report arguing that climate change could be a "threat multiplier" in already fragile parts of the world. Rising sea levels could threaten the livelihoods of more than one billion people living within 45 miles of Asia's coastlines. In Africa, recurring heat waves could cause widespread shortages of food and water, leading to large-scale migrations and escalating tensions.

Anthony Zinni, the retired Marine general, made the point elegantly when he said that "we will pay for this one way or the other" – either now, to control the emission of greenhouse gases, or later, in military engagements and "human lives." The military elite has now joined mayors, governors and business leaders in demanding action.

The UN Security Council held its first-ever discussion of the link between climate change and international conflict. While the overwhelming majority of nations voiced grave concerns and urged stricter worldwide controls on greenhouse gases, the USA and China argued that the Council was the wrong place to raise the issue.

8F. More thoughts on biofuels

[Sources: AP, 3/13/07; and *Sierra*, May/June]

As pointed out earlier (NL272 ¶8C), we should remember that biofuels must fulfill a dual function: (a) to wean us from oil, and (b) to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Many of our politicians tend to forget (b). Emissions produced during production of the fuel, as well as during its burning, must be considered.

Last year, ethanol production used 12% of the US corn harvest and replaced 2.8% of the nation's gasoline consumption. Ethanol production has doubled in the past three years, and is expected to double again in less than two years.

Cars must be specially equipped to be able to use fuel that is more than ~10% ethanol. US automakers, with federal incentives, have committed to having half the cars they produce run on either E85 (i.e., 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline) or biodiesel by 2012.

Forethanol made from corn, it takes the energy equivalent of at least 3 gallons of oil to produce 1 gallon of it. Growing the corn requires agricultural machinery that is quite energy consuming. The production of fertilizers and pesticides also consumes fossil fuels. The corn must be transported to a production plant where conversion to sugar, fermentation, and distillation consume energy; and the finished product is transported by rail and/or tanker truck to the distribution point, consuming yet more energy.

Mandating an increase in fuel-efficiency standards could be more effective than switching to corn ethanol. An analysis by Lester R. Brown, president of the Earth Policy Institute, finds that increasing automobile efficiency by just 20% would be equivalent to converting the entire US grain harvest into ethanol.

Corn is not the only possible source of ethanol, however. One source of cellulosic ethanol (i.e., ethanol made from plant fiber) is switchgrass, a prairie grass native to the Midwest. Its cultivation requires far fewer pesticides than does that of corn; and though its processing has been more complicated and expensive than that for corn, this technology is now being simplified tremendously. The best source of ethanol, so far, is sugar cane because the production step of breaking down starch to sugar can be skipped. Ethanol produced from sugar cane has permitted Brazil to achieve virtual energy independence. According to venture capitalist Vinod Khosla, sugar cane ethanol reduces greenhouse-gas emissions per mile driven by about 60-80% -- as compared to about 20% for corn ethanol.

8G. Interesting facts of all kinds

- The burning of 1 gallon of gas in an automobile engine releases 20 pounds of CO₂ into the atmosphere.
- Disappearance of Arctic sea ice causes a polar bear to lose 22 lbs. of fat for each week not spent on ice foes.

- Disappearance of sea ice leads to coastal erosion from wave action.
- Specialized sensors that started operating in the Arctic about 8 years ago have detected a prevalence of super-cooled liquid water droplets in Arctic clouds. Water clouds are more likely than ice clouds to warm the atmosphere since the former retain more heat radiated by the Earth's surface.
- According to a *New York Times/CBS News* poll released in late April, most Americans feel it is more important to protect the environment than to stimulate the economy; most favored requiring car manufacturers to make more efficient vehicles and said they would be willing to pay more for electricity from renewable sources if this reduces global warming.

9. THE OAK RIDGE AREA

9A. Comments on GNEP siting

(Based on a letter by Frank Hensley)

On April 25, TCWP submitted comments on the scope of the Siting study for the GNEP (Global Nuclear Energy Partnership) facilities. DOE has posted all 11 GNEP siting studies on the following website:

<http://www.gnep.energy.gov/gnepSitingStudies.html>

Our comments were restricted to site selection and did not discuss the merits of the proposal itself, though this deserves the strongest scrutiny (importation of nuclear wastes from all over the world to be reprocessed into usable fuel).

We strongly recommended that, should Oak Ridge be chosen for any of these facilities, they be located on "brown fields," such as the 5,000-acre ETPP site (K-25), which has been decontaminated at great taxpayer expense in order to make it available to new industry, or the unused Clinch River Breeder Reactor site. We strongly oppose the wasteful and short-sighted proposal to build GNEP facilities on a presently unspoiled forest area in the Oak Ridge Reservation. ORR land is an irreplaceable resource for climate and biological research by ORNL, and for education, outdoor recreation, and wildlife habitat. The proposed site was chosen (and ETPP and the Breeder Site were rejected) by a disingenuous non-public process.

TCWP has long suggested that a land-use plan be generated for the ORR. The need is now greater than ever, and we intend to pursue advocacy for such a plan.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: DOE is accepting comments until June 4. They can be sent to: Timothy A. Frazier, GNEP/PEIS Document Manager, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW,

Washington, DC 20585-0119, Phone: 866-645-7803; Fax: 866-645-7807; E-mail, GNEP@PEIS@nuclear.energy.gov

9B. Trails in the BORCE

(Information from Bill Johnston)

There will be more walking opportunities in the ~3,000-acre Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement in the western part of the ORR. According to Jim Evans (Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency), DOE has agreed to open up the gravel roads on the southern end of the BORCE as hiking trails, and to add woodland trails to the existing trail network on the northern end of the BORCE. Some details concerning parking still need to be worked out. We'll have more details later.

9C. City Council election, June 5.

On May 3, TCWP joined AFORR in sponsoring a special candidate forum on matters affecting the environment in and near Oak Ridge. Six of the 7 candidates were present: Fred Childress, Ella Hawkins Dubose, Ray Evans, Charlie Hensley, Jerry Marrow, and Ellen Smith (Tom Hayes did not attend).

If you were not present, we urge you to inform yourself on the candidates' positions on issues such as:

- safeguarding Oak Ridge greenbelts,
- maintaining protection of the Three-Bends area,
- keeping the natural environment of the Oak Ridge Reservation intact.

If you can't find the candidates in the phone book, call *The Oak Ridger* (482-1021) or the Anderson County Election Commission (457-6238) to get their phone number and/or electronic address.

Election Day is June 5, but Early Voting, to be held at the Oak Ridge Mall, extends from May 16 through May 31 from 11-6 (weekdays) and 9-12 (Saturdays). Be sure to VOTE!!!

10. TCWP NEWS

10A. Upcoming activities

If additional information on any of the listed events, contact Sandra at 865-522-3809, or at sandra@sandtraks.com

"The Environment of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR)" - May 31

(Contributed by Carol Grametbauer)

Dale Rector, an aquatic biologist with TDEC, who has long experience on the ORR, will acquaint us with the area's current status. This TCWP Quarterly Meeting is to be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 31, in the Fellowship Hall at the Chapel on the Hill. Park in the upper parking lot, which directly accesses the meeting room.

East (Tellico) Lake Shore Trail: the Sequel -- June 9 [Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The East Lake Shore Trail on Tellico Reservoir, site of a TCWP hike last summer, was so enjoyed by participants that a reprise has been scheduled for Saturday, June 9. The trail, opened in 2004, is a project of the Watershed Association of Tellico Reservoir (WATeR) and TVA.

Hikers should meet at the trailhead at 9:45. Wear sturdy shoes, and bring appropriate outerwear, lunch and water. Dogs are welcome. To reach the Trailhead, travel Route 321 between Lenoir City and Maryville, and turn south on Route 95 toward Greenback. Travel on 95 South 1.8 miles to Axley Chapel Road on right. Travel 1.5 miles on Axley Chapel Road and turn right on Coyote Road. Trailhead is on the left.

Alliance for the Cumberlands meeting -- June

12

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

(This is not a TCWP-sponsored activity, but we thought our members might be interested, especially since TCWP was instrumental in getting the Alliance started.) The Alliance for the Cumberlands will hold a general meeting on Tuesday, June 12, at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville. Among the agenda items are a review of the Tennessee-Kentucky Conservation Action Plan, an update of the Wildlife Viewing Trail, and a presentation on the Heart of the Cumberlands initiative (¶3A, this NL). For more information, or to register for the meeting, call 865-546-5998 or visit

www.alliancefortheCumberlands.org

Review of Watts Bar Management Plan -- July 26 [Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TCWP and AFORR will co-sponsor an information session with TVA officials to review the revised Watts Bar Draft Management Plan on July 26 in Oak Ridge. For time and place see NL274, or call Sandra at 865-522- 809.

Tree-identification outing -- August 18

[Contributed by Carol Grametbauer]

Larry Pounds will lead a tree-identification outing along Melton Lake Greenway on an easy 1- to 1.5-mile walk. Participants should meet at 8 a.m. at the gravel parking lot across from Rivers Run.

10B. TCWP receives gift

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TCWP received a major financial contribution last month from a member who no longer lives in Tennessee. Designated for general operating expense, this contribution will help offset the costs we incur to pay our Executive Director, publish and mail our Newsletters, and hold our meetings, among other things. The formerly active

member noted that TCWP is a great organization that works hard and effectively to protect some of the loveliest lands and waters in the country. His faith in our work is very gratifying, and the money will be put to good use in continuing our work.

10C. Special mentions

Linda LaForest

For a couple of years in the 1990s, Linda did a wonderful job as TCWP Executive Director until she had to move out of town with her family. Soon after she returned, she enrolled in U.T.'s veterinary college, earning her doctorate in veterinary medicine (she already had a master's in agricultural economics). While working long hours in a veterinary practice, and raising two wonderful kids, she also made time for volunteering with TCWP's active activities committee.

In January, when Dr. McArthur died suddenly, Linda became head of the McArthur Animal Hospital. Her many TCWP friends are happy that she is continuing her volunteer work for TCWP.

Miriam Guthrie Kertesz

How sad that our "special mention" must be a good-bye! Miriam, who died on April 18, had a long and active association with TCWP. In 1983, she was our Vice President, but even before that she served on the Board (1982), and chaired the nominating committee (1973). Hal Smith remembers that she was active in some committees, and that she helped with TCWP's development and maintenance of the North Ridge Trail. She loved the out-of-doors and enjoyed hiking, canoeing, and biking. And she was a good friend to many of us who greatly mourn her passing.

The family requested that memorials be made to TCWP (or to one of several other organizations). Several have already been received, and we are grateful.

10D. We thank our volunteers

A wonderful group of people goes to work each time a Newsletter needs to be assembled for mailing. The following helped with NL271: Dick Raridon, Helen and Ken Warren, Frank Hensley, Jean Bingham, Charlie Klabunde, and Sandra Goss. And here are the ones who worked on NL272: Ken and Helen Warren, Dick Raridon, Carol Grametbauer, Charlie Klabunde, Frank Hensley, and Sandra Goss.

Francis Perey always gets the Newsletter up on the TCWP web site in record time. And Francis manages all our other web-site features too. We couldn't operate without him!

Several members have assisted with the TCWP display at a number of recent functions. Hal Smith set it up at Wilderness Wildlife Week, then took it down. Mary Lynn Dobson helped

with the display at the Spring Wildflower Pilgrim-
age, and Ralph Harvey at Earthfest.

11. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

the City of Crossville comply with environmental
laws and improve the quality of the water in our
streams. Contact Dennis Gregg, Project Leader,
Obed Watershed Community Association at 484-
9033, dengregg@gmail.com.

•• EVENTS CALENDAR

(For details, check the referenced NL item; or
contact Sandra K. Goss, 865-522-3809, sandra@sandrakgoss.com)

- May 16-31, Early voting (§9C, this NL).
- May 31, Dale Rector speaks on The Environment
of the ORR (§10A, this NL).
- June 5, City Council and other elections (§9C,
this NL).
- June 9, East Tellico Lake Shore Trail hike (§10A,
this NL).
- June 12, Alliance for the Cumberlands meeting
(§10A, this NL).
- June 15, Secret City Festival - TCWP booth.
- July 26, Meeting on Water Bar Plan (§10A, this
NL).
- August 18, Tree-identification outing (§10A, this
NL).

•• RESOURCES

- A helpful tool on the General Assembly's web
site, <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us>, is the
ability to search for legislation by subject. Click
"Legislation" in the main menu, then "Subject
Index." You can also get a list of all the bills
sponsored by a particular legislator. Click "Sen-
ate" (or "House") → "Members" → "Sponsor
List." You can also click "Schedules" to get
committee meeting times.
- *Assessing the Wealth of Nature: Using Economic Stud-
ies to Promote Land Conservation Instead of Sprawl* is
an 8-page distillation by Defenders of Wildlife of a
more detailed inventory by Resources for the Fu-
ture, Free, by going to
www.defenders.org/assessingwealth.
- Websites on subjects related to global warming
(all start with <http://www>):
ipcc.ch/ THE authoritative resource (§8A)
heatisson.org political aspects
realclimate.org climate science
nature.org/initiatives/climatechange TNC
fightglobalwarming.com
energyright.com/ TVA tips on energy
energystar.gov Energy efficiency for home
climatechallenge.org For high school/college
- The Obed Watershed Community Association
needs volunteers to help monitor three impaired
streams within the Obed River Watershed: One
Mile Creek, Long Branch, and the Obed River
above where the Little Obed joins it. The purpose
of OWCA's Stream Monitoring Project is to
gather information to help property owners and

A Member of



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.....
I (we) would like to join TCWP and receive the Newsletter and Political Guide.

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