



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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Newsletter No. 328

July 17, 2016

Taking Care of Wild Places

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the two sides ¶2B

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Editor: Liane B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. E-mail: lianerussell@comcast.net
Shaded box or star means "Action Needed." Don't be overwhelmed -- check the ACTION SUMMARY on p. 2

10. ACTION SUMMARY

¶No.	Issue	Contact	"Message!" or Action
2E	Damage from abandoned-mine	US rep.	"Co-sponsor RECLAIM Act, HR.4456!"
4D	Corporate sponsorship in parks	NPS Director Jarvis	"Do not allow corporate sponsorship, logos, branding!"
5C	Attack in Wilderness Act	US rep. and senators	"Uphold Act's prohibition of mechanical transport!"
6A(1)	Federal coal-leasing review	BLM, <i>by July 28</i>	"The review is clearly worth doing, especially climate impacts!"
6A(2)	Federal coal-leasing review	US rep.	"Oppose all attempts to short-circuit important review!"
5C	Methane emissions	EPA Admin. McCarthy	"Thanks for standards for new facilities. Add existing ones!"
5F	Carbon pollution from aviation	Sec. of State, Kerry	"Urge UN to cap carbon emissions at 2020 levels!"
7A,H	Participating in TCWP activities	Sandra Goss	Pick activities from ¶7A and participate; volunteer.

Senator John Doe
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Pres. Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111 (comments);
456-1414 (switchbd); Fax 456-2461
www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Governor Bill Haslam
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-9872
615-741-2001; Fax 615-532-9711
bill.haslam@state.tn.us

Dear Senator Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Congressman Doe
Sincerely yours,

Dear Mr. President
Respectfully yours,

Dear Gov. Haslam
Respectfully yours,

Sen. Bob Corker
Ph: 202-224-3344; FAX: 202-228-0566
e-mail: <http://corker.senate.gov/public/>
Local: 865-637-4180 (FAX 637-9886)
800 Market St., Suite 121, Knoxville 37902

Sen. Lamar Alexander:
Ph: 202-224-4944; FAX: 202-228-3398
e-mail: <http://alexander.senate.gov/public/>
Local: 865-545-4253 (FAX 545-4252)
800 Market St., Suite 112, Knoxville 37902

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:
Phone: 202-225-3271
FAX: 202-225-3494
Local (O.R.): 865-576-1976
<https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me>

To call any Repr. 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.lcv.org>
With mail to Congress still slow following the anthrax scare, consider faxing, phoning, and other modes of communication.

You can find contact information in our Political Guide. It's on TCWP's website (<http://www.tcwp.org>), as are some current action calls. You can also choose to receive e-alerts by contacting Sandra Goss (see below).

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 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: P.O. Box 6873., Oak Ridge, TN 37831 **President:** Jimmy Groton, 865-483-5799 (h)
Executive and Membership-Development Director: Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967. Sandra@sandrakgoss.com
Newsletter editor: Lee Russell, lianerussell@comcast.net

1. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK Capsules

1A. *TCWP comments on remediation of mine drainage sites EA*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

As reported earlier (NL319 ¶3A) an Environmental Assessment (EA) was done addressing drainage mitigations *specifically* tied to conservation measures that will improve water quality and aquatic habitat conditions for the *endangered* duskytail darter in the Big South Fork Cumberland River.

Big South Fork NRRRA proposes to remediate or abate three sites in the park. Completion of the project fulfills the requirement of the March 2014 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Incidental Take Statement (ITS), which addressed return to normal pool operations at the Wolf Creek Dam (Lake Cumberland).

Among the terms of the ITS is a requirement to construct remediation actions on at least two sites affected by contaminated mine drainage and one action on sediment-producing activities within the Blue Heron vicinity of the BSF. The Corps of Engineers proposes to construct the projects listed in the Preferred Alternative 5, a combination of work at the Blue Heron Spoils, Devils Jump Settling Pond, and Unnamed Tributary 3 Concrete Lined Stream. Additionally, the Corps will develop and implement a monitoring plan to document the effects of these remediation projects over time.

TCWP supports implementation of Alternative 5 because this alternative offers the most comprehensive remedies for mine drainage and siltation in the Big South Fork.

1B. *Visitation is up*

According to the parks' newsletter, visitation at both parks has increased significantly this year: 12% for the BSFNRRRA and 25% for the Obed WSR.

1C. *Photo contests will close July 22*

Both the Big South Fork and Obed Photo Contests close on Friday, July 22. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form. Big South Fork entry forms can be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/gurw47f>. Obed entry forms can be downloaded from <https://www.nps.gov/obed/learn/photosmultimedia/obed-photo-contest.htm>.

1D. *Dark night sky at Nemo*

[From July E-Newsletter for BSFNRRRA and Obed WSR]

"Night Skies Over the Obed," Saturday, July 23, 9:30-11 p.m. (ET). Join park staff and guest speaker Owen Hoffman at Nemo Bridge to view the night sky over the Emory River. This will be an amazing opportunity to view the Milky Way and other stellar constellations, Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter. All ages are welcome for this free event. Participants are encouraged to wear

sturdy shoes, and bring a flashlight, blanket or chair for comfortable seating.

2. TENNESSEE NEWS

2A. *More on what the Tennessee legislature did*

Our latest Newsletter reported on the outcome of just a few selected bills from the legislative session that ended April 22 (NL327 ¶2A). A couple more may be of interest; none is good.

SB.1955(Yarbro)/HB.2364(Stewart, the Tennessee Scenic Vistas Protection Act, which would stop ridgeline mining, had failed in several previous years. This year, the Sierra Club attempted to transform it, by way of a major amendment, into a law requiring reports on potential upstream threats to drinking water. It failed but will be attempted again next year.

HJR.0092(Holt), supports transfer of federal public lands to the western states (part of the war on public lands). Passed and signed.

SJR.0002(Norris) urges steps leading to a Constitutional Amendment stating that whenever ¼ of the members of *either* House of Congress declare their opposition to a proposed federal regulation, "it shall require a majority vote of the House *and* Senate to adopt that regulation." Passed and signed.

SB.2591(Norris)/HB.1941(Wirgau) loosens regulations about starting CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) on existing farms. Passed and signed.

2B. *Crab Orchard Mountain wind farm proposal; the two sides*

[With contributions from Sandra Goss]

The plan to site a wind farm on Crab Orchard Mountain (NL 325 ¶4A) has become the subject of considerable controversy. Apex Clean Energy Inc., which is also pursuing another Tennessee wind farm in Gibson County, has held several public meetings in Cumberland County, providing general information about the proposed project.

According to Apex Clean Energy's website, the total investment could be up to \$130 million, with 50 jobs during construction and 7 permanent jobs. The company expects there will be 20—23 wind turbines, situated ¼ to ½ mile apart, each occupying less than ¼ acre. The projected maximum production of 71 MW requires a purchaser, presumably Tennessee Valley Authority. At press time, TVA has not approved such a purchase.

The wind farm has encountered opposition from Sen. Lamar Alexander, Crossville City Council, and Tennessee Wildlife Federation Executive Director Mike Butler. The negative aspects include view-scape and soundscape pollution, erosion and siltation from new road construction, and hazards to birds and bats.

On the other side are the benefits from replacing fossil-fuel (coal, oil, gas)-generated energy with renewable energy and thus reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. According to <http://science.howstuffworks.com>, bird mortality from wind turbine collisions, while it does occur (in the USA 10,000-40,000 bird deaths per year) is relatively minor when compared with that from other structures (130-174 million from power lines, 60-80 million from automobiles). Collisions with wind turbines account for about 0.1% of all "unnatural" bird deaths in the United States each year (altogether, 70% of all bird death are due to "unnatural" causes). Possible mitigations to reduce mortality of feeding bats and migrating birds are the feathering of propeller blades when idle, reducing start-up speeds, and installation of ultrasonic equipment and other measures.

TCWP continues to study the issue and welcomes input to Sandra at sandra@sandrakgoss.com or 865.583-3967.

2C. *Animals in Tennessee: bats and cranes*

Bats: fighting the White Nose Syndrome

White Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease discovered ten years ago in upstate New York, has killed 6 million bats in North America. Ever since WNS was found in our state in 2010, the fight against it has become a priority for the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. In just the past five years, the Conservancy has discovered more than 130 caves that harbor large populations of hibernating bats and is involved in annual bat surveys.

WNS has now spread across the entire state. We have lost over 90% of three formerly common bat species (Little Brown, Tricolored, Northern Long-eared) and one federally endangered one (Indiana bat). Bats of another endangered species (Gray Bats) appear to be holding their own. In addition to being involved in research on WNS treatment, TNC is focusing on giving surviving bats the best possible habitat protection and cave management.

Cranes: will be hunted more

Sandhill cranes, which make Tennessee a major stop-over in their annual migration, were made subject to hunting in 2013. Because of public outcry, the hunting season was not as long as it might have been. In setting the season for the upcoming fourth year of hunting (2016/17), the TN Fish & Wildlife Commission overrode staff recommendations that the season be kept the same. The Commission, instead, extended the season to 55 days. It runs from Dec. 3 2016 until January 29, 2017, with three days off for the annual Sandhill Crane Festival on the Hiwassee Refuge (January 13-15). Altogether 400 packets of three hunting permits will be issued – 1,200 permits in all. During the later parts of the extended season, some groups of cranes will be taking flight for their summer breeding grounds up north.

2D. *Water quality in Tennessee*

Decreased enforcement of laws

[Information from TCWN]

In 2015, the state issued only 15 enforcement orders for violations against surface-water permits. Only 10% of requests for enforcement against violators resulted in orders, as compared to 80% in 2007; this proportion has shown a steady decline since 2010. In 2016, however, the number of orders appears on the increase.

Settlement will protect the Harpeth

[Information from SELC]

Acting on behalf of the Harpeth River Watershed Association, the Southern Environmental Law Center fought – and recently won -- a legal battle over discharges from a sewage treatment plant into the Harpeth River, a major drinking-water source for Middle Tennessee. The settlement also secured a new monitoring plan, plus plans for a comprehensive study looking into the entire Harpeth watershed, the first study of its kind in our state.

2E. *Expediting repair of damage from abandoned mines*

The Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Fund was established in 1977 to restore land and water contaminated by coal mines that had been abandoned before the federal surface mining law took effect that year. The AML program is funded by a per-ton fee on coal production. Presently, the AML fund holds \$2.5 billion that was intended as a reserve fund for states to use after 2021, when the AML program is set to expire.

In February, Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY), with co-sponsors from both parties, introduced the RECLAIM Act (HR. 4456), which would accelerate payments from the AML Fund, dispersing \$1 billion over five years to projects that would reclaim former mining sites while boosting local economic development. The RECLAIM bill is based on one of the components of President Obama's POWER-Plus Plan (first introduced as part of the president's 2016 budget, and reintroduced for the 2017 budget) designed to assist communities around the country that experience economic hardships due to coal's decline.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Encourage your U.S. representative to co-sponsor the bipartisan RECLAIM Act (HR.4456), which would reclaim abandoned mining sites while boosting local economic development. (For address, see Political Guide on TCWP website.)

2F. *Funding for Grassy Cove may be (?) on its way*

In mid-June, The Senate Appropriations Committee narrowly approved the Fiscal Year 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill (S.3068), which funds a number of agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service. Included in the USFS appropriation is \$1.35 million for the Forest Legacy grant pro-

gram to protect the Karst Forest at Grassy Cove in Cumberland County. This project would protect another 1,000 acres on Bear Den and Brady Mountain by adding them to the Cumberland Trail State Park (NL320 ¶3A).

The companion appropriations bill in the House (HR.5538), is replete with disastrous provisions and may be vetoed (¶5A, this NL). The fate of the Grassy Cove appropriation is thus uncertain.

2G. *Conservation staff news*

Jeff Hunter at NPCA

Known to many of us as leader of the Tennessee Wild campaign that works for Wilderness protection in the Cherokee National Forest, Jeff recently joined the SE Regional Office of the National Parks Conservation Association. As the new Southern Highlands Living Landscape Program Manager, his responsibilities include identifying emerging issues and crafting new park-protection initiatives focused on the Southern Appalachian parks.

Trish Johnson, TNC's Director of Forest Conservation

For the past six years, Trish has done a huge job organizing the effort to save hemlocks from succumbing to the hemlock woolly adelgid. Thousands of hemlocks have been saved in 15 counties in the Cumberlands. Expanding her effort to other invasive pest insects that are spread through infested firewood, she is presently working on a program that provides interactive maps and a search engine to help find certified firewood vendors anywhere in Tennessee. She is also collaborating with TWRA on completion of a Habitat Conservation Plan to improve protection for 216,000 acres of Cumberland Plateau public lands.

3. TVA News

New dry ash storage for Bull Run

The comment deadline recently passed for the draft EIS on a new coal-ash storage area for the Bull Run power plant. This proposal supports TVA's long-range plans to convert ash storage at *all* of its plants from a wet to a dry system. It is thus not related to an EIS drafted earlier this year that concerned *existing* impoundments, rather than new storage.

The current EIS considers numerous possible locations for a new dry-ash storage area. It is available at www.tva.com/nepa. The comment deadline was July 4.

4. 100th BIRTHDAY FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

4A. *NPS's mission, and its growth*

The National Park Service, which is about to celebrate its 100th birthday (see also NL327 ¶4A, NL325

¶4F) was established by the Organic Act of August 25, 1916 to "promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations." NPS is actually 44 years *younger* than the first national park, Yellowstone, and 10 years younger than the first national monument.

The Organic Act gave NPS the distinct mission "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

When it was created in 1916, the National Park Service was responsible for 37 properties. Today, the agency and its ~20,000 employees safeguard 59 national parks, along with 353 national monuments, historical sites, seashores, national rivers, recreation areas (and let's not forget a Wild & Scenic River, the Obed). The system has inspired similar efforts in nearly 100 countries around the world.

President Obama has used the 1906 Antiquities Act 23 times, to date, to protect 261 million acres of water and 4 million acres of land – more than any other president in history,

4B. *The National Park System has also brought economic benefits*

A recent five-year study by Colorado State University and the Harvard Kennedy School determined the total economic value (TEV) of national parks and the National Park Service's programs to be \$92 billion. (http://www.nationalparks.org/npf/PDF_files/NPS-TEV-Report-2016.pdf).

In 2015, NPS generated \$16.9 billion in visitor spending, which supported a total of 295,000 jobs in park-adjacent communities. Great Smoky Mountains National Park held second place for creating economic activity: 10,712,673 visitors spent \$873.9 million, supporting 13,700 jobs.

4C. *The latest National Monument*

There are national park sites that tell the story of women's rights (NL327 ¶4B), of African-American rights (Selma), of labor-union rights (Cesar E. Chavez NM in California), and others. On June 24, Pres. Obama created the Stonewall National Monument in New York City, which is dedicated to LGBT history. It was riots that followed police raids on the Stonewall Inn in the summer of 1969 that became the catalyst for launching the modern LGBT civil rights movement.

4D. *Corporate sponsorship should not replace Congressional appropriations*

Because of Congress's neglect, the maintenance backlog for our 412-unit national park system has now grown to nearly \$12 billion. New rules, inserted into an order by NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis that will take effect by the end of the year would open the door to corpo-

rate donations, in return for corporate sponsorships. Parks would be allowed to start selling “naming rights,” which would allow the highest corporate bidder to place their name or logo (e.g., a Nike Swoosh) directly on select spaces and areas, such as park buildings, benches, auditoriums, and visitor centers.

Our parks were established as remnants of America’s *natural* heritage and of the precious things money cannot buy. Necessary maintenance should be paid for with public funds (appropriated by Congress) and not with advertising designed to enrich corporations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge NPS Director Jarvis to cancel his plans to allow corporate sponsorships, logos, and branding in our national parks.
(Jonathan_JarvisA@nps.gov, or 202-208-6843)

4E. *Congressional actions*

don’t reflect NPS’s popularity

According to a Nov. 2015 Pew Research Center survey (people-press.org), the National Park Service scores lowest among 17 government agencies for percentage of “unfavorable” views (11%) expressed by Americans. It ranks second highest in percentage of favorable views (75%; 72% Rep., 81% Dem). [Congress, by contrast, was rated 69% unfavorable and only 27% favorable – much worse than any of the 17 agencies. Favorable opinions of Congress have not surpassed 30% in more than four years.]

About 83% of Americans would have a “favorable” reaction to their representative in Congress taking “a strong stand in support of policies to *protect and strengthen national parks*.” Hard to reconcile with the fact that, between January 2013 and March 2016, members of Congress filed at least 44 bills or amendments that attempted to *remove or undercut protections for parks and public lands* — making the 114th Congress the most anti-conservation Congress in recent history.

A group of 20 senators and representatives has formed a *de facto* “anti-parks caucus” in Congress. Prominent among them are Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Rep. Bishop (R-UT). Bills or amendments introduced by the caucus would authorize commercial sale of lands to private companies, permit logging and drilling in existing parks and public lands, prohibit the creation of any new parks, and prioritize housing development and building of highways through and within parks over recreational use.

5. NATIONAL ISSUES: ATTACKS ON ALL FRONTS

5A. *Horrors of the Interior Appropriations bill*

The House Interior Appropriations bill (HR. 5538, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related

Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017) passed the House July 14, hours before representatives took off for a 7-week vacation.

This is a must-pass appropriations bill to which 131 amendments were added in committee in an attempt to pass legislation that couldn’t have made it on its own. As presently written, the House bill even without amendments is unacceptable, as it seriously underfunds the Dept. of Interior and EPA, providing \$1 billion less than what President Obama requested in his budget.

The full House voted on the amendments from the night of July 12 until mid-afternoon July 14; most of the amendments we oppose were accepted, and most of the ones we support were rejected. The next step is for a conference committee to reconcile differences between the House and Senate bills and to negotiate a final version. This cannot happen until after the Congress returns from vacation in seven weeks. The White House has threatened a Presidential veto of the House bill.

The content of a few of the unacceptable provisions is summarized here (there are many more).

- It undermines the Endangered Species Act, circumventing established law, federal process, and in some cases, judicial precedent.
- It prohibits OSM from finalizing or implementing the proposed Stream Protection Rule, which would update 30-year old regulations to reflect modern science and technology [Sen. Alexander thinks the Rule would cause burdensome impacts on mining companies.]
- It emasculated review of the federal coal-leasing program (§6A(2), this NL).
- It prohibits the President from exercising his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate national monuments in certain counties within eight States.
- It cuts \$129 million, or 27%, from the discretionary funding requested in the FY 2017 Budget for DOI’s and USDA’s Land & Water Conservation Fund programs.
- It cuts \$399 million (11%) from EPA’s operating budget, compared to the FY 2017 Budget request
- It blocks the Clean Power Plan as well as carbon pollution standards for power plants, critical components of the Administration’s efforts to combat climate change (NL326 §6A)
- It essentially scuttles the hard-won Waters of the US (WOTUS) rule (NL322 §4C; NL324 §4B). [This provision was lauded by Sen. Alexander, who blamed the government for “trying to regulate farmers’ mud puddles.”]
- It blocks standards for sources of emissions of methane in the oil and natural gas industry (NL324 §5C)
- Many, many others

5B. *Energy Policy bill would gut Wilderness Act*

[With information from *Wilderness Watch*, 6/24/16]

When it passed the Senate in April, the bipartisan Energy Policy Modernization Act, S.2012, was a mixed bag with regard to energy issues (NL327 ¶5E). A month later, the House passed a substitute (under the same Senate-bill number) that contains very damaging provisions in the Sportsmen’s Act, which is part of S.2012 (strange legislative marriages are made by the Congress!). These provisions would have a devastating effect on the 1964 Wilderness Act and on wildlife-protection laws. Among other things, they would:

- allow almost unlimited damage to Wildernesses if done for even a remote connection to hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, or wildlife management;
- permit such damaging projects as dam construction, construction of “temporary” roads, logging or chaining if done for wildlife browse, motor vehicle driving, bulldozer and backhoe use, construction of cabins if done for any connection to fish or wildlife;
- effectively strip the *wild* from Wilderness by allowing managers to engage in any and all sorts of habitat manipulation projects, including logging, burning, chaining, dam building, or similar projects, as well as predator control or any other action designed to provide more game species.
- prohibit environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for any of the above damaging projects;
- expedite mining on public lands without meaningful environmental review.

To date, the Senate has not voted on whether to approve the House changes or to let the bill go to conference. At this stage, we don’t have enough facts to know whether the bill (or any part of it) remains a threat. Watch our website for possible developments.

5C. *New attack on the Wilderness Act*

[With information from *Wilderness Watcher*, vol.27(2)]

Wilderness is a rare and very special resource, and while it provides opportunities for recreation, that’s not the primary reason for preserving it. Sec. 4(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act states “there shall be no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, *no other form of mechanical transport, . . .*”

For more than half a century, this provision has been generally understood and implemented to keep bicycles and other forms of mechanical transport out of Wilderness. Recently, mountain bikers have agitated for use at the expense of wilderness. They have shrunk the boundaries of proposed Wilderness *before* designation (in one case from 100,00 acres to 37,000 acres), and actually eliminated land from an *existing* Wilderness.

Now, the Sustainable Trails Coalition (STC) has drafted legislation to amend the Wilderness Act, a move not endorsed by the IMBA, the primary mountain biker

association in the country. STC, formed because IMBA was considered not radical enough, has announced that it will hire a lobbying firm to help pass its bill, which would open *all* Wilderness in the country to mountain bikes, would permit chainsaws, and would allow construction of structures such as outfitter camps. In the Spring, TCWP signed on to a letter to Congress from 115 organizations opposing STC’s efforts to weaken the Wilderness Act.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your members of Congress (address p.2) to uphold the Wilderness Act’s prohibition of mechanical transportation in Wilderness, including bikes, and to oppose all attempts to weaken wilderness protections.

5D. *Yet another attack on the Endangered Species Act*

[Information from *Defenders of Wildlife*]

Senator Rand Paul introduced S. 855, the so-called “Endangered Species Management Self-Determination Act,” and a companion was introduced in the House in May (HR.5281, Luetkemeyer). The bill was referred to committee in both Houses, but there has been no further action to date.

This is the 105th legislative attack on the Endangered Species Act this Congress. And it’s by far the scariest.

- All endangered and threatened species would be automatically delisted five years after listing, even if they still desperately need protection;
 - No species could be listed without approval by the states and by Congress;
 - Government officials would no longer be required to respond to listing petitions, the main tool by which species gain ESA protections;
 - Approximately 900 species – over half of all listed U.S. species – could lose protections
- Watch for action alerts if the bill progresses.

6. ENERGY; CLIMATE CHANGE

6A. *The super-important issue of federal coal leasing*

The fate of federal coal leasing, which supplies 40% of the coal used in the US, will affect our energy future and our ability to limit climate change. In January, the Obama Administration placed a moratorium on *new* federal coal leasing (NL325 ¶5) in order to study its various impacts (leases that were approved in the past are not affected, assuring at least another 20 years of coal production from federal lands). Two essentials must be assured: (1) The comprehensive review must be initiated and include a number of important issues. (2) Efforts to have the process curtailed so as to make it in-

effective must be opposed. Please take action on both (below).

(1) *Still time to support “pause and re-view” for federal coal leasing*

July 28 is the comment deadline for the scoping phase of the Programmatic EIS to be used in determining new policies and rules for coal leasing on public lands (NL327 ¶5B). Comments have been collected for several months, and six hearings were held around the country, including one in Knoxville (NL327 ¶5B) to help identify issues and actions to be included in the PEIS.

About 40% of all coal produced in the US comes from 480,000 acres of public, taxpayer-owned land, most of it in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana. Among issues already identified as worthy of review are:

- Climate protection (leased coal is responsible for 13% of America’s energy-related greenhouse gas emissions).
- Fair royalty rates (the need to incorporate external costs such as the impacts on health and the environment of mining, burning, ash disposal into the cost of leases; rates must be more comparable to those for oil & gas leases).
- Impact on our energy future (underpriced coal crowds out clean-energy development).

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Support the “pause and review” of the federal coal leasing program. The leasing program has unfairly subsidized the coal industry, while having significant impacts on health, global climate, and development of clean energy. Tell BLM that the review is definitely worth doing, especially since it will include the first-ever comprehensive look at climate impacts. By July 28, e-mail at least a brief message to BLM_WO_Coal_Program_PEIS_Comments@blm.gov. Or write to:
 Coal Programmatic EIS Scoping
 Bureau of Land Management
 20 M Street SE, Room 2134 LM
 Washington, DC 20003

(2) *Short-circuiting the federal coal leasing review must be opposed*

Section 441 of the House Interior Appropriations bill (HR.5538) completely short-circuits the Administration's recently-announced comprehensive review of the Federal coal leasing program. It would have to be done by the end of next year, by which time the moratorium on new leases would end. This is, of course, an impossible task, and simply a device for letting the *status quo* continue.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Although the fate of HR.5538 is currently uncertain (¶5A, this NL), it won’t hurt to let your Congressman (address p. 2) know that you strongly support the review of the federal coal-leasing program and would oppose any attempt to interfere with it.

6B. *Senate GOP tries to scuttle major component of Paris Agreement*

The USA did not need Senate action to sign the Paris Agreement, the landmark global commitment of almost 200 nations to stop climate change (NL 327 ¶5D). But the Congress holds the purse strings and could make some of our commitments unfulfillable.

The international Green Climate Fund (GCF), a program established to help developing countries cope with climate change, has been a major goal of the international negotiators. The Obama administration pledged \$3 billion by 2020 for the GCF, and in March the United States made its first payment of \$500 million. Now, the Senate’s \$52.08 billion State Department and Foreign Operations bill, released at the end of June, prohibits the federal government from making further contributions to the GCF. The bill has not been passed and hopefully won’t be with this provision.

6C. *North American leaders united in their resolve to cut methane pollution and to use clean energy sources*

[Information from EDF]

At the North American Leaders' Summit in Ontario in June, Mexico announced a landmark commitment to slash oil- and gas-generated methane pollution 40-45% by 2025, matching commitments previously made by the U.S. and Canada. Also at the summit, Mexico’s President Peña Nieto, President Obama, and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada made a joint pledge to generate 50% of North America’s electricity from clean energy sources by 2025.

6D. *Trump’s position on climate change is in strong contrast to that of world leaders*

[From *The Hill* 7/11/16]

In a radio interview in September, Trump rejected many of the climate-change policies presented by the Obama administration, including the president’s contention that climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing the world today.

“I mean, Obama thinks it’s the number one problem of the world today,” he told the interviewer. “And I think it’s very low on the list. So I am not a believer, and I will, unless somebody can prove something to me, I believe there’s weather. I believe there’s change, and I believe it goes up and it goes down, and it goes up again. And it changes depending on years and centuries, but I am not a believer, and we have much bigger problems.”

He once called climate change a hoax invented by the Chinese.

The Sierra Club has released a report collecting statements from 195 heads of state (including Chinese President Xi Jinping) showing their acceptance of climate change science and, often, their push to address the issue. Every nation recognized by the State Department is included in the list; even North Korea signed the Paris climate deal agreed to last year.

Trump said he would want to renegotiate the [Paris] Agreement because it treats the United States unfairly and gives favorable treatment to countries like China . . . 'at a maximum I may do something else.'

6E. *Americans less likely to vote for climate-change denier*

[From *Climate Progress*, 4/12/16]

The number of Americans who are “more likely to vote for a presidential candidate who strongly supports taking action to reduce global warming,” (43%) greatly exceeds the number who would be less likely to vote for such a candidate (14%); a 3-to-1 ratio. Similarly, the number of Americans who are “less likely to vote for a presidential candidate who strongly opposes taking action to reduce global warming” (45%) greatly exceeds the number who would be more likely to vote for such a candidate (11%); a 4-to-1 ratio.

These are the results of a survey of 1,004 registered voters by the Climate Change Communication programs at Yale and George Mason University.

6F. *Global warming: yet another record year*

The magnitude of departures from the norm has been so great that just the first three months of data for 2016 have been sufficient to predict yet another yearly record. The prediction was made by Gavin Schmidt, who directs NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

“We will not cross the suspension bridge, but go down under and explore the streambed down to the top of the falls. The forest along the stream is very different from the plateau top. There will be lots of chances to cool off in the stream, lots of scenic bluffs, and a dramatic view into the gorge. The return trip will backtrack to the bridge and out to the vehicles.”

The two- to three-hour outing is rated moderate, involving short stretches of steep and rocky terrain.

Participants can meet for carpooling in the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) to leave at 8 a.m. EDT; meet at Common Ground, 405 Fourth St, Crossville, at 8:05 a.m. CDT; or meet in the lobby of the park inn by 9 a.m. CDT.

Summer Cedar Barren cleanup – Saturday, August 20

Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, this barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, the State Natural Areas Division, and TCWP. The area is one of just a few cedar barrens in East Tennessee, and is subject to invasion by Chinese lespedeza, Japanese privet, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, multiflora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system’s prairie grasses. Our spring, summer, and fall cleanups help to eliminate the invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sun.

Volunteers should meet in the Jefferson Middle School parking lot at 9 a.m.; wear sturdy shoes and bring loppers, gloves, and water. The work session will conclude at noon with a pizza lunch. For additional information, contact Tim Bigelow at Bigelowt2@mindspring.com or at 865-607-6781.

“Fall Flowers in a Powerline Prairie” – Saturday, Sept. 10

(Contributed by Larry Pounds)

This is a joint outing for TCWP and the Tennessee Native Plant Society. We will caravan from the Hardees in Soddy-Daisy to the Hixson Springs Trail Head in the North Chickamauga State Natural Area. After a walk through the woods, we will come out into the openness of a right-of-way. Here the wide array of fall flowers includes Alabama rosinweed (*Silphium gatesii*), slow goldenrod (*Solidago tarda*) and Eastern silvery aster (*Symphyotrichum concolor*). The outing will involve less than four miles of rough jeep-road walking.

Participants can meet for carpooling at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) at 10 a.m. E.T, or at the Hardees (9398 Reco Dr.) at the Harrison lane exit off U.S. 27 in Soddy-Daisy at 11:45 E.T. Bring water, a lunch, and bug spray.

For more information, contact Larry Pounds at 865-705-8516 (cell, best bet), at 865-816-3576 (home), or via email at PoundsL471@aol.com.

7. TCWP NEWS

7A. *Upcoming activities*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

[NOTE: Times listed for all events are Eastern Time, unless specified otherwise.]

Creek Exploration Outing at Fall Creek Falls State Park – Saturday, July 23

Join Randy Hedgepath, the State Naturalist for Tennessee State Parks, for an adventure at Fall Creek Falls State Park. We will meet at the park Inn and carpool to the Piney Falls area. Randy says, “The plan is to hike out the Lower Cane Creek Loop Trail for about a half-mile and learn about the forest of this part of the Cumberland Plateau. Then the real adventure begins.

National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, September 24

TCWP and TVA will again partner for our annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) celebration, to be held at TVA's Worthington Cemetery Ecological Study Area on Melton Hill Reservoir in Oak Ridge. TVA expects to add bird boxes and bat boxes at the ESA prior to this event, so volunteers will have something new to see. A pizza lunch will follow our work session, which will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around noon.

TCWP has for many years partnered with TVA to enhance and protect natural resources at Worthington Cemetery and other TVA lands throughout East Tennessee as part of our mutual stewardship efforts. Our yearly efforts in this area are helping to eradicate wisteria from the cemetery, and privet and other invasive exotics from the ESA. Additional details will be provided in the September newsletter and via email alert.

Additional information on all TCWP activities may be obtained from TCWP Executive Director Sandra K. Goss at Sandra@sandrakgoss.com or at 865-583-3967.

7B. *Recent events*

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

Big Soddy Creek Gulf Wildflower Walk – May 14

(Contributed by Mitchell Kent, Tennessee Native Plant Society) Members of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and TCWP joined trip leader Larry Pounds (who is on the boards of both organizations) for an interesting and invigorating hike in the Big Soddy Gulf near Soddy-Daisy. The weather was cool and breezy, nearly perfect for being outdoors in the month of May.

The hike followed a broad approach trail that connected with a segment of the Cumberland Trail and terminated at the new pedestrian bridge over Big Soddy Creek. Total distance covered was approximately five miles. Numerous wildflowers and plants were identified along the way. Our thanks to Larry for an excellent field trip!

Hike on New Section of Cumberland Trail (Crab Orchard exit, Daddy's Creek) – May 21

(Contributed by Mitchell Kent, Tennessee Native Plant Society) TNPS and TCWP sponsored a joint hike on a new section of the Cumberland Trail near Crab Orchard on May 21. There was an excellent turnout for the hike, led by CT expert Larry Pounds. Larry treated the group to an interesting overview of trail planning and construction, in which he has been closely involved.

Though built over rocky terrain, the trail is generally smooth, with well-placed stepping stones across small streams and steep sections. Numerous plants and features were found along the trail, which included an extended walk along a beautiful section of Daddy's Creek.

National Trails Day Workday on North Ridge Trail - Saturday, June 4

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

North Ridge Trail Stewards Ray and JoAnn Garrett hosted a pizza and beer lunch for the North Ridge Trail section adopters on June 4, National Trails Day. Many of the adopters had worked on their sections prior to the lunch.

Special thanks to section adopters: Jean Bangham, Tim Bigelow, April Dixon, Ray and JoAnn Garrett, Hal Hoyt, Jan Lyons, Liz Norred, Harold "Duck" and Hope Waddle, and Dennis and Julie Wolf. Donna Kridelbaugh, a former adopter, has moved away; Butch Newton and his wife have since adopted her section.

Summer Solstice Evening Hike on Cumberland Trail - Friday, June 17

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

Seven participated in our June 17 Summer Solstice Evening Hike on the Emory River Gorge section of the Cumberland Trail, a 2.5-mile round-trip outing led by Tim Bigelow. The highlight of the trip was supper at the bluff top, where we were treated to a beautiful view of the river gorge as dusk began to creep in.

"Kids in the Creek" Outing on the Emory River – Saturday, June 25

(Contributed by Sandra Goss)

About a dozen youngsters and that many adults enjoyed the June 25 "Kids in the Creek" outing. Thanks to our cosponsors, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the kids (and adults!) were treated to programs about aquatic fauna. Emory River Watershed Association also cosponsored this event with TCWP, and provided complimentary lunches for all participants.

Presentation on Manhattan Project National Historic Park – Thursday, July 14

(Contributed by Carol Grametbauer)

On July 14 Niki Nicholas, manager of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park's Oak Ridge unit (in addition to her duties as superintendent of the Obed Wild and Scenic River and Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area), spoke at a joint program for TCWP, Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation, and the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association that was attended by about 50 people. Nicholas' presentation, titled "Centennial and Beyond," focused on the National Park Service's current Centennial and the NPS' goal for the next 100 years: "to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates." She discussed the wide variety of outreach programs being conducted in the three Park Service units she manages, including the recently opened exhibit in the baggage claim area at McGhee Tyson Airport and numerous activities involving students and young people.

In the question-and-answer period that followed her talk, Nicholas discussed the Manhattan Project National Historic

Park and its significance. She said her staff is “delighted” to be part of the new Historic Park’s Oak Ridge unit, and encouraged area residents to help by volunteering; anyone interested can call Effie Houston at 423-569-9778 or contact her via email at Effie_Houston@nps.gov.

7C. *Great article on TCWP*

The July/August issue of *The Tennessee Conservationist* carries an article by Nancy Adgent, entitled “Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning Works to Preserve Water Quality, Wildlife and Natural Wonders.” You can request a reprint by sending \$2 (for mailing) and your address to TCWP (P.O. Box 6873, Oak Ridge, TN 37831).

7D. *Help TCWP through Kroger*

*Community Rewards program:
August re-enrollment required*

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

If you have a Kroger Plus Card, you can help TCWP by enrolling in the store’s Community Rewards Program. We thank those of you who are enrolled and encourage you to re-enroll in August.

In order to enroll/re-enroll, visit www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow. Follow instructions to sign in. TCWP’s number is 26906, and is listed under Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. If you find computer access difficult, call Sandra at 865.583-3967 for assistance.

7E. *If you contributed to TCWP via Community Shares . . .*

We would appreciate it if anybody who designated TCWP to receive their Community Shares contributions would inform us of having done so. We want to thank you, and add you to our membership list. Some companies provide us with notification, but not all do.

7F. *Thanks, and a tip of the hat to ...*

From Sandra Goss



- Larry Pounds and Jimmy Groton for their leadership of the Big Soddy Creek Gulf hike.
- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Bob Compton, Jimmy Groton, Katherine Hensley, Joe Horton, Harriet McCurdy, Eileen Neilor, Dick Raridon, and Michele Thornton for their help in getting the TCWP Newsletter delivered/sent.
- Patsy Monk for helping set up the TCWP exhibit at Wilderness Wildlife Week.
- Hannah Tippit for helping with the exhibit set up at Oak Ridge Earth Day.
- Francis Perey for his invaluable help with the TCWP website.

- Virginia Dale and Michele Thornton for nominating TCWP for the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church Split the Plate program.
- Tim Bigelow, Jamie Herold, and Jan Lyons for their help with event publicity.
- Tim Bigelow for his leadership of the Evening Solstice Hike.
- Mark Bevelhimer, Joe Feeman, and Mike Sale for their help with the Kids in the Creek event.
- Carol Grametbauer for her leadership of the TCWP Program Committee and her service as TCWP Secretary.
- Emory River Watershed Association for cosponsoring the Kids in the Creek event, especially David Hennessee, Mitch Heidel, and Mike Sale.
- Jon Michael Mollish of TVA and Mark Thurman of TWRA for leading the Kids in the Creek activities.
- Larry Pounds for his leadership of the May hike on a new section of the Cumberland Trail, and to the Tennessee Native Plant Society for their cosponsorship.

7G. *Friends and members in the news*

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- Jo Hardin was featured in a May 11 article in the *Morgan County News* about the Mountain Laurel Festival art show.
- John Byrd was mentioned as a class leader at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Science Program in the May 18 *News Sentinel*.
- Mick Wiest was pictured in the May 9 *Oak Ridger* article about a meeting of the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association.
- Matt Hudson and Doug Colclasure were pictured in the May 9 *Oak Ridger* in an article about marketing the Manhattan Project park.
- “Wildly Strolling Along” by Larry Pounds and his son Ben was reviewed in the May 22 *News Sentinel*.
- Maureen Dunn was pictured and mentioned in an article in the May 22 *News Sentinel* about a Women’s Fund of East Tennessee event.
- Judy Roitmann figured prominently in an article by son Ben Pounds in the May 13 *News Sentinel* about a Mother’s Day canoe outing.
- Jonathan Levenshus wrote a letter to the editor of the May 26 *News Sentinel* about coal mining on public lands.
- Kathleen Williams wrote an op-ed about resource conservation in Tennessee for the May 24 *Nashville Tennessean*.
- Bill Hodge penned an op-ed about National Trail Day in the June 4 *Times Free Press*.
- Mark Bevelhimer, Chris DeRolph, and Michael Schramm authored an article on “Predicting environmental mitigation requirements for hydropower projects through the integration

of biophysical and socio-political geographies” in the October 2016 *Science of the Total Environment*.

- Adam Hughes penned a letter to the editor of the June 9 *Knoxville Mercury* about Knoxville Utility Board’s planned Smart Meter installations.
- Marty Adler Jasny, Sal Smith, and Paul Spray were pictured in the May 12 *Oak Ridger* in a group of Oak Ridge League of Women Voters 50-year members.
- Bill Hodge was mentioned in a June 21 *Johnson City Press* article about a group of U.S. Naval Academy students who are helping maintain the Appalachian Trail this summer.
- Jerry Hardin was pictured in the June 22 *Morgan County News* and its coverage of Flag Day ceremonies.
- Mona Raridon penned a letter about Secret City Excursion Train to the *Oak Ridger* editor on June 2.
- Michael Butler wrote an article about the proposed Crab Orchard Wind Farm in the June 21 *Crossville Chronicle* and the June 18 *News Sentinel*.
- Don Barger was quoted in a June 30 *Knoxville Mercury* article about soundscapes and nightscapes in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- Joe Feeman penned an article about travel in Boston and New York City in the June 29 *Norris Bulletin*.
- Richard Norby has been elected fellow of Ecological Society of America, as reported in the June 26 *News Sentinel*.
- Axel Ringe penned a letter to the editor of the June 23 *News Sentinel* about coal-ash storage.
- Erin Gill was mentioned and pictured in a June 29 *Bearden Shopper* article about the recent U.S.-China Climate-Smart/Low-Carbon Cities Summit.
- Neil and Maureen Dunn McBride attended a gala for Clarence Brown Theater, as listed in the July 10 *News Sentinel*.

7H. *Executive Director’s Column*

[By Sandra Goss]

TCWP volunteers, along with this writer, have been heavily involved in two facets of TCWP’s wide-ranging efforts: outdoor and informational events, and website remodel. Numerous cosponsoring organizations have helped us spread the word about pending events. Whenever and whenever possible, TCWP strives to partner with like-minded organizations. Working together, we are stronger.

Thanks to Board members’ associations, we co-sponsored events with the Tennessee Native Plant Society, Kids in the Creek with the Emory River Watershed Association, UT Arboretum Society, Greenways Oak Ridge. These partnerships are much appreciated!

TCWP sponsored the annual trail-maintenance sessions at Whites Creek Trail, Alley Ford section of the

Cumberland Trail, Oak Ridge Cedar Barren, and North Ridge Trail. Each of these projects represents decades of stewardship on the part of TCWP. Thanks to all who come out to keep these special public areas maintained. We also sponsored the enjoyable recent Evening Solstice Hike on Cumberland Trail.

The website remodeling progresses slowly. Choosing templates, pictures, banners, etc. is a big task! There are many decisions to be made.

Watching the days grow shorter, and passing the mid-year mark, please take a moment to commit an environmentally friendly act: request your *TCWP Newsletter* be e-mail. This will save paper and postage!

Another helpful action that might be suggested, is your participation in the Kroger Community Rewards Program (§7D, above). Please enroll in August to support TCWP.

Thanks for all you do, and hope to see you at an event this year.

Sandra

8. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

- CALENDAR (events and deadlines)
 - (For more information, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967, or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)
 - July 22, deadline for submitting entries to the Obed and the BSF Photo Contests (see §1C, this NL).
 - July 23, Creek Exploration Outing at Fall Creek Falls State Park (see §7A, this NL).
 - July 23, “Night Skies over the Obed” program (see §1D, this NL).
 - July 28, comment deadline for the federal coal-leasing PEIS (see §6A(1), this NL).
 - August 20, Summer Cedar Barren cleanup (see §7A, this NL).
 - September 10, “Fall Flowers in a Powerline Prairie” (see §7A, this NL).
 - September 24, National Public Lands Day cleanup at Worthington Cemetery (see §7A, this NL).
- RESOURCES
 - For more information on the Manhattan Project National Historic Park (§7B, this NL), visit nps.gov/mapr/index.htm.
 - “Find your Park” (findyourpark.com) is an initiative of the National Park Service Centennial. You are invited to share your park experience at BSFNRRRA, Obed WSR, GSMNP, or wherever, and read about other people’s experiences in a variety of parks, on your favorite social media site and tag #FindYourPark.

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Coming Events

- Sat., July 23 Randy Hedgepath leads a Fall Creek Falls State Park outing
- Sat., Aug. 20 Summer Cedar Barren cleanup
- Sat., Sept. 10 Fall Flowers in a Powerline Prairie outing
- Sat., Sept. 24 National Public Lands Day - Worthington Cemetery
- Sat., Sun.,
Oct.22, 23 Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law Conference
(APIEL) Conference at UT Law School