



Tennessee
Citizens for
Wilderness
Planning

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1. **Vote! Vote! VOTE!** p. 3

Candidates for Senator, Governor, Congressional Districts 2 and 3:
their position and record on environment/conservation

2. **Obed and Big South Fork** p. 3

- A. 50-year anniversary of Wild & Scenic Rivers Act
- B. TWRA expands Daddy's Creek access
- C. Obed water sampling project
- D. Acid mine drainage in BSFNRRRA

3. **Tennessee news** p. 4

- A. Clinch-Powell Rivers Initiative
- B. Revision of Dale Hollow Plan
- C. Renewed effort for "bottle bill"
- D. Rocky Fork State Park
- E. New link in Cumberland Trail
- F. Environmental Law conference

4. **TVA news** p. 5

- A. Updated Natural Resources Plan
- B. Vegetation management in ROWs
- C. Power mix
- D. Oak Ridge dept. recognized

5. **Public lands** p. 6

- A. LWCF moves toward reauthorization
- B. Bills address huge maintenance backlog for public lands
- C. Exploitation planned for stolen National Monument lands
- D. An Obama NPS policy rescinded by Sec. Zinke
- E. Vela nominated NPS director

6. **Other national issues** p. 8

- A. WOTUS restored in many states – for now
- B. Endangered Species Act attacked on many fronts
- C. EPA leadership: from abysmal to really bad
- D. Increase in mining footprint per ton of coal recovered
- E. The Wall's harm to biodiversity

7. **Climate change; Energy** p. 9

- A. Administration weakens coal-ash protection
- B. EPA nibbling at Clean Power Plan
- C. Forecast for energy mix
- D. Carbon sequestration by vegetation
- E. Complexities for assessing effects of sequestration

8. **TCWP news** (Upcoming and recent activities; Ted Snyder; ORUUC contribution; Access to trailhead; Thanks; In the news; Exec. Director's column p.10

9. **Calendar; Resources** p. 13

10. **ACTION SUMMARY** p. 2

Taking Care of Wild Places
The BIG stories

Environmental records of Nov. 6 candidates ¶1

Clinch-Powell initiative .. ¶3A

LWCF moves toward reauthorization ¶5A

Maintenance backlog for public lands ¶5B

WOTUS is back - for now ¶6A

Multiple attacks on Endangered Species Act¶6B

Coal ash protection weakened ¶7A

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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
1	Election of MOCs and governor		Be sure to vote in 2018 midterm election
5A	Land & Water Conservation Fund	Your U.S. rep. and senators	"Strongly support permanent reauthorization of LWCF!"
5B	Public lands' maintenance backlog	Your US representative	"Co-sponsor and support HR.6510!"
6A	Clean water in <u>all</u> water sources	MOCs, newspapers, etc.	"WOTUS assures clean drinking water for many millions!"
6B	Endangered Species Act	Your U.S. representative Your U.S senators	"Oppose any and all bills that 'overhaul' ESA!" "Support ESA as it stands!"

Senator John Doe United States Senate Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 https://lastname.senate.gov/	The Hon. John Doe U.S. House of Representatives House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 https://lastname.house.gov/	Pres. Donald Trump 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
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Rep. Chuck Fleischmann:
 Phone: 202-225-3271
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 Local (O.R.): 865-576-1976
<https://fleischmann.house.gov/contact-me>

To call any rep. or senator, dial Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121. To find out about the status of bills, call 202-225-1772.
 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 "take action" alerts. You can also choose to receive e-lets 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.

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TCWP website: <http://www.tcwp.org>

1. Vote! Vote! VOTE!!!

If there ever was an election in which to vote, the 2018 Midterm is it. Make sure your registration is in order (you must be registered by Oct.7), and don't fail to go to the polls. Early voting makes it all the easier. While there are numerous issues on which you'll probably base your vote, conservation/environment is the only issue we will address here.

U.S. Senator. While serving as Tennessee's governor (2003-2011) Phil Bredesen carried out the largest conservation transaction since the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park: the 127,000-acre "Connecting the Cumberlands" project that expanded the boundaries of existing state parks and wildlife management areas. In addition, by proactively using Tennessee's Heritage Conservation Trust Fund to leverage private sources of funding, he was spectacularly successful in conserving and preserving other significant areas for ecological protection, tourism, and outdoor recreation. – Bredesen's opponent, Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn, has a lifetime League of Conservation Voters rating of only 2% (See NL339 ¶5E)

Governor. Republican candidate Bill Lee is a cattle farmer and businessman, so he has no record in government. His platform does not mention environmental issues. His "Roadmap for Rural Tennessee" proposes to "eliminate unnecessary government regulations."

Democratic candidate Karl Dean served as Mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County from 2007-2015. He added over 4,000 acres of park land and created the city's Office of Environment and Sustainability. During his time as Mayor, there was increased construction of greenways and bike paths. As a result of his efforts, curbside recycling was expanded around the Metro area. Dean's wife, Anne Davis, an attorney, was the first head of the Tennessee office of the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC).

U.S. Congress, 2nd District (formerly represented by John Duncan, Jr.). Candidate Renee Hoyos started the Tennessee Clean Water Network and, for a number of years, served as its effective CEO.

U.S. Congress, 3rd District. Incumbent Chuck Fleischmann has long withheld his support for the Tennessee Wilderness Act (Cherokee National Forest Wilderness), sponsored by Senators Alexander and Corker. As a result, this bill has not passed for the past four Congresses. Fleischmann's LCV lifetime score is 3% (0% in 2017). His challenger is Danielle Mitchell, MD.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: VOTE!!! Vote early, vote by mail, or vote on Nov. 6. Whichever way you want to do it, VOTE!!!

2. OBED and BIG SOUTH FORK

2A. *The Obed Wild & Scenic River Celebrates the 50-year Anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act*

The Obed is Tennessee's Star in the WSR Act
[from TCWP NL337 ¶1B]

This year, it'll be half a century since the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed (Oct2, 1968). TCWP, which is two years older, was working hard for passage of that Act, having earlier succeeded in passing the Tennessee State Scenic Rivers Act -- first state act in the Nation -- from which, however, both Obed and BSF had been deleted by amendment. The Obed was in the National Act; though not one of the Instant Rivers, it was one of 27 Study Rivers. Passage of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act was the first step; it took another eight years, and passage of yet another bill, for the Obed to become a Wild & Scenic River. We invite you to read "How the Obed got saved from being turned into a reservoir and became a National Wild & Scenic River" (see www.tcwp.org --> About Us --> History).

The Celebration

[Contributed by Obed WSR ranger
Joe Zagorski,]

On October 2, 2018, the Obed Wild & Scenic River will be culminating a year's worth of events with one big event, honoring the signing of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, which occurred on October 2, 1968. The celebration will kick off for kids at 10:00 a.m. (ET), as local Morgan County Head Start and home-schooled children are invited to participate in a fun Junior Ranger program that includes prizes and a scavenger hunt. Then at 1:00 p.m. (ET), a portion of the Morgan County High School band will play several tunes. At 1:30 p.m. (ET), Obed WSR Superintendent Niki Nicholas will welcome our esteemed guests, which will include state senator Ken Yager. A couple of Wild & Scenic River films, entitled *Protected: A Wild and Scenic River Portrait*, and *River Connections: Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers*, will be shown. Refreshments including a Wild & Scenic River-themed cake will be offered, as the Country and Bluegrass musical group *Tune Union* will go on stage at roughly 2:30 p.m. (ET) to conclude the event with song. Join us for this free event!

Note: Tennessee State Parks will celebrate the Act's 50th anniversary with paddling or hiking events at 13 different state parks on Saturday, September 29.

2B. *TWRA expands Daddy's Creek Access*

[With information from *American Whitewater*, 9/7/18]

Daddy's Creek Canyon is one of the most scenic and pristine Class-IV free-flowing river sections in Tennessee, and is a favorite of boaters across the Southeast and beyond. For decades, paddlers and hikers have sought improved access through Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, but roads were closed by the TN Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA)

in the interest of hunters and for the enhancement of wildlife populations. These closures applied particularly during the limited seasons when there is sufficient water to float the river.

TWRA has now decided that Catoosa will be kept open to paddlers during daylight hours throughout the year, except for a winter closure period. Thus, there will be significantly more access throughout the months of November, December, March, and April. The lower portion of Daddy's Creek was protected as a Wild and Scenic River in 1976, as part of the Obed WSR. Providing public access is a good way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

2C. Obed Citizen Scientists' Water Sampling Project

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Volunteers are helping with water sampling on the Obed River. The sampling will be done at five sites after heavy rains, when *E.coli* levels are more likely to affect recreational use of the waters.

With a grant from the National Park Foundation through the generous support of The Coca-Cola Company and The Coca-Cola Foundation, training and equipment have been provided. Additional volunteers are needed. For more information, call Obed WSR staffers Veronica Greear or Rebekah Schapansky at the Obed Visitor Center at 423-346-6294.

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2D. Mitigation and treatment of acid mine drainage in the BSNFRRRA

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Last month, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area released (for review and comment) a Programmatic and Site Specific Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on Contaminated Mine Drainage (CMD) Mitigation and Treatment. The DEIS addresses remediation of contaminated mine drainage sites, and takes a programmatic approach to considering future treatment options at former mining sites throughout the entire park.

The element that varies most among the four alternatives is CMD-site access, and this variable consequently has the largest effect on differential impacts of the alternatives.

- Alternative 1 (no action): current conditions and management strategies for treating CMD sites would remain unchanged, and no action would be planned to remediate CMD.
- Alternative 2: there would be no restrictions to the development and maintenance of access to remediate 25 potential CMD sites.
- Alternative 3 (preferred alternative): access would be limited to existing routes identified in the current General Management Plan (GMP), with the ability to widen routes, use and improve historic access routes, and construct up to 0.1 mile of new access road to sites. Approximately 13 CMD sites could be accessed for remediation.

- Alternative 4: access would be limited to existing roads and to larger access routes identified in the current GMP, such as horse trails and multiple-use trails, and to new access roads less than 0.1 mile in length. Historic access routes, such as former roads or tramways, would not be used. Approximately 10 CMD sites could be accessed for remediation under this alternative

On behalf of our members, TCWP commented on the DEIS, and endorsed Alternative 3. For more detailed information, contact Sandra.

3. TENNESSEE NEWS

3A. Clinch-Powell Clean Rivers Initiative

[Info from EPA News Release, 7/9/18]

The Clinch and Powell rivers originate in the mountainous terrain of southwestern Virginia and flow into Tennessee. Among the last free-flowing headwaters of the Tennessee River system, and containing a globally important collection of rare fish and mussels, the Clinch-Powell watershed is considered among North America's most important biodiversity hotspots.

The Clinch-Powell Clean Rivers Initiative (CPCRI) is a collaborative river restoration effort, facilitated by The Nature Conservancy, and comprised of federal and state agencies, universities, industry partners, and non-profit conservation organizations. The agencies recently announced that they have extended a Memorandum of Understanding first signed in 2008.

Collaborative work to accelerate restoration efforts in the watershed utilizes several approaches. These include helping cooperating farmers implement Best Management Practices, using the Abandoned Mined Land Fund to restore lands and waters impacted by coal mining, partnerships with localities to reduce storm-water run-off, and improving wastewater management. These actions are reducing the amounts of fertilizer runoff, sediment, and toxic pollutants going into the rivers.

According to the Nature Conservancy's CPCRI Science Team, collective scientific investigations since 2008 have shown that habitat conditions in the rivers are fairly good, but that rare freshwater mussels are under chronic stress from relatively low-concentrations of metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. A key priority as CPCRI moves forward is understanding the specific sources of these contaminants and developing remediation strategies.

Restoration of good water quality and ecological diversity are the primary objectives of CPCRI. There has been a general increase in public use of the rivers for swimming, fishing, canoeing, and other activities. A new Clinch River State Park and Water Trail has been created in Virginia, and the Powell River Blueway has been established in Tennessee

3B. Corps invites comment

on Dale Hollow Lake Master Plan

The Nashville District of the Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing an EA on a proposed revision of the Dale Hollow Lake Master Plan. The dam that formed the reservoir is located about 3 miles east of Celina, on the Obey River. The master plan for the lake has been updated three times, the last time in 1991. One purpose of the proposed new update is to evaluate needs to protect and improve the value of the lake's resources. The draft EA can be requested, and comments sent to

travis.a.wiley@usace.army.mil. Deadline is Oct. 4.

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3C. Renewed effort for "bottle bill"

Legislation mandating returnable deposits has long been opposed by bottlers and grocers. After many years of frustrating effort, led by Marge Davis, to pass a container-deposit bill that would reduce waste and increase recycling, success may now be on the horizon.

Microplastics (MP) in the ocean have disastrous effects on the food chain. Recent studies have revealed that the Mississippi drainage system (which includes the Tennessee River) contributes to the Gulf of Mexico a MP concentration that is among the highest reported globally. MP concentrations in the Tennessee River have been reported at levels twice those in the Yangtze, and 80 times those in the far more populated, more heavily industrialized Rhine River in Europe.

In some parts of the world, bottlers and grocers have begun reversing their decades-old opposition to mandatory deposits. Deposits have become implemented in at least seven countries during just the past two years.

The Tennessee Bottle Bill Project (new nickname: TennCan) is gearing up for the next session of the General Assembly. You can sign up for emails and action alerts at www.tnbottlebill.org. Or contact Marge Davis, coordinator, by calling cell (615) 294-2651.

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3D. "Visioning" for Rocky Fork State Park

[Contributed by Johnny Cosgrove]

Rocky Fork State Park is 2,058 acres of scenic wilderness in Unicoi County, in the southern Appalachian Mountains of East Tennessee. Designated a Tennessee State Park in 2012, it was officially opened in 2015. The park is predominately Appalachian cove forest, one of the most biologically diverse habitats in North America. The lush forest supports numerous Federally Listed Species including the world's fastest flyer, the Peregrine Falcon, the Yonahlossee Salamander, Woodland Jumping Mouse and at least one rare species of damselfly. Black Bear also make their home here. The park is part of the Unicoi Bear Reserve.

TCWP has been invited to participate in a day-long, solutions-focused visioning session in Unicoi County, Tennessee on Saturday, September 29. The session will be hosted by a group of concerned citizens who live in the vicinity of Rocky Fork State Park and want to ensure the

state's plans for the further development of the park do not negatively impact the pristine Rocky Fork watershed or their lands, homes and cherished way of life.

The September 29 session will be facilitated by Dr. Duarte B. Morais (Associate Professor of Equitable and Sustainable Tourism at NC State) and other members of NC State's People-First Tourism Lab. It will focus on how the community's involvement in nature-based tourism can enable local conservation and prosperity. Attendance is by invitation only, due to limited space.

The facilitators are meeting with local stake-holders to listen to dreams, apprehensions, and ideas for the development of Rocky Fork State Park, the sustainable management of the greater Rocky Fork Watershed, and the improvement of local livelihoods and quality of life.

3E. 200-acre link in Cumberland Trail

On behalf of the State of Tennessee, TennGreen is purchasing 200 acres on Hinch Mountain near Crab Orchard. This area improves a section of the Cumberland Trail, and provides a promising location for a trailhead in the Karst-Forest-at-Grassy-Cove area.

3F. Environmental law conference coming to Knoxville

[Contributed by Erica Davis]

The Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law (APIEL) conference brings together hundreds of eco-minded and socially conscious activists, attorneys, students, scientists, and citizens in the interest of achieving environmental and social justice throughout Appalachia and surrounding areas. The conference features a series of workshops that address the region's most pressing ecological problems, as well as the underlying laws, policies and institutional dynamics that have enhanced these issues.

APIEL is modeled after the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) established in Eugene, Oregon. For more information about the 9th Annual APIEL taking place October 12-14 at the UT College of Law in Knoxville, see apiel.org.

4. TVA NEWS

4A. TVA's updated Natural Resources Plan

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TVA has updated its 2011 Natural Resource Plan through a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, with the end result to be known as the 2020 NRP. On behalf of our members, TCWP submitted comments on the new plan, which has been expanded from 6 focus areas to 10. The 10 focus areas are recreation, land and habitat stewardship, cultural resources management, public outreach and information, public land protection, Section 26a permitting and land use, ecotourism, nuisance and invasive species management, reservoir lands planning, and water resource stewardship.

TCWP comments urged particular and immediate attention to the significant loss of land due to erosion caused by boat wakes and to the mussel die off in the Clinch River. We also commented that special efforts should be made to increase the amount of public land that is managed at the most protective level. Finally, TCWP pointed out that there is a need to replace the many professionals who have retired in the past 10 years with qualified natural-resource professionals. Details about the Natural Resource Plan 2020 are available at tva.com/nrp.

4B. TVA’s proposed management of vegetation in transmission ROWs

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

TVA has prepared a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on vegetation management practices along transmission line Rights of Way (ROW). Transmission lines should not be confused with distribution lines. The latter generally deliver electricity from local power companies’ substations to the end-user. Transmission lines, on the other hand, carry high energy levels from generation sources to primary substations; outages along these lines affect many more people.

- Alternative A: No action
- Alternative B: Cyclical Based Control Strategy, which calls for maintaining low-height vegetation through recurring cycles of vegetation clearing. Vegetation would be cleared every three years
- Alternative C (preferred alternative): Condition-Based Control Strategy (end state, meadow-like). The ROW would be maintained to a meadow-like state, and maintenance of trees would be assessment based. Compatible trees and shrubs would be allowed in areas that are maintained by others, such as on residential lands and agricultural lands.
- Alternative D: Condition-Based Control Strategy (end state, variable by zone). Similar to Alternative C, with the buffer area managed in zone-appropriate ways, offering the possibility of more trees and shrubs in the ROW.

Comments on this plan are due by October 1. TCWP volunteers and staff are analyzing the various alternatives. For more information, visit www.tva.gov/nepa

4C. Mix of resources for TVA’s power generation

Green Power Switch is a voluntary program under which utility customers can purchase renewable energy in blocks of 150 kWh). TVA is proposing to add more solar. For 2017, the mix was 54% solar, 18% wind, 28% biogas. The prospective mix for 2018 is 70% solar, 20% wind, 10% biogas.

For comparison, TVA’s current average mix of resources (generated or purchased) is

25% coal	38% nuclear
20% natural gas and/or oil	9% hydroelectric
1% co-gen	3% wind
3% other non-renewables	<1% other renewables

4D. Oak Ridge Electric Department recognized for boosting renewable-energy sales

The City of Oak Ridge Electric Department (CORED), which sells TVA power, was recently honored as a leader in the Top-10 utility green power programs in the nation. The National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) granted the award to the CORED in recognition of its leadership in voluntary renewable energy programs. CORED was ranked #4 on the NREL list for Top Green Power Sales Rate in 2017.

CORED customers are active participants in TVA’s Green Power Switch and in the Green Power Switch South-eastern Renewable Energy Certificates programs. Both programs are Green-e Energy certified.

5. PUBLIC LANDS

5A. Land & Water Conservation Fund moves toward reauthorization

Authorization for the LWCF expires on September 30. It would be unthinkable to let it expire! The great news is that, on Sept. 13, Rep. Grijalva’s bill, HR.502, which permanently reauthorizes the LWCF passed out of House committee.

The 1965 LWCF provides almost all of the money needed for the acquisition and protection of federal public lands, as well as making grants to states and local governments to create and protect urban parks and open space. For over 50 years, the program has protected more than two million acres of land and supported more than 40,000 state and local park projects. The LWCF safeguards natural areas, protects clean water, preserves our cultural heritage, and provides opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation.

The Fund doesn’t cost taxpayers a thing; it is funded entirely by royalties paid by the oil and gas industry for offshore drilling. Note that the pending bills designed to reduce the public lands maintenance backlog (¶5B, below) would not compete with LWCF funding; both Senate and House bills specify that maintenance money would come from drilling revenues that are *not already* allocated by law to other programs (such as the LWCF).

Over the years, only fractions of the annual authorized funding amount of \$900 million have actually been appropriated. Varying sums to be appropriated for FY2019 are contained in some pending bills (see, e.g., NL340 ¶6B). While HR.502 authorizes the current level of \$900 million per year, it would continue to make the actual amount appropriated subject to an annual decision by Congress.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your Members of Congress and urge their strong support for HR.502, a bill that *permanently* reauthorizes the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

5B. Bills that address the huge maintenance backlog on public lands

As the result of many years of sorely inadequate funding, maintenance in our national parks has suffered hugely. Everywhere there are deteriorating historic buildings, run-down trails, and crumbling roads, and the maintenance backlog is estimated at somewhere between \$11.3 and \$11.6 billion.

Now, Congress has at last begun to address the problem. Over the past year or so, bipartisan bills were being developed by committees in both Houses. One of them, (S.3172, the Restore Our Parks Act), of which Tennessee's Sen. Alexander is a sponsor, has now passed the Senate. A House bill (HR.6510, the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act) was just this past week marked up by committee.

The Senate and House bills have many similarities. Both would:

- Establish federal funds in the US Treasury to draw down maintenance backlogs;
- Direct to the fund revenues the government receives from the on-shore, off-shore, and renewable energy operations that are not already allocated by law to other programs;
- Direct 50% of these available, unobligated receipts per year to the fund — up to \$1.3 billion a year.

The chief difference between the bills is that the Senate bill is directed solely at the National Park Service backlog (specifying that there shall be parity between transportation and non-transp. projects), whereas the House bill splits the funding between four USDI departments,

- 80% to the National Park Service (with non-transportation and transportation projects receiving 65% and 35%, respectively)
- 10% to the Fish and Wildlife Service
- 5% to the Bureau of Land Management
- 5% to the Bureau of Indian Affairs

The House bill needs to be passed, and the two bills then reconciled by the Conference Committee.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Urge your US Representative to co-sponsor and support HR.6510. (Reps. Roe, Fleischmann, and Cooper are co-sponsors and deserve our thanks). The bill would ensure that our national parks continue to preserve our nation's heritage and recreation opportunities. Other public lands agencies would also be able to catch up on deferred maintenance.

5C. Destructive exploitation planned for stolen National Monument lands

Recently, the US Dept. of the Interior (DoI) accidentally released secret documents and retracted them one day later. These documents revealed that essential information was deliberately omitted from Secretary Zinke's review that "justified" the subsequent shrinking of two National Monuments by a total of 2 million acres. His review emphasized the monetary value of energy developments, logging, and ranching on these lands. Ignored was ample evidence for the economic benefits that the monuments have

brought: boosting per capita income in local communities, generating billions of dollars annually in tourism and outdoor recreation, and more. Zinke's review also ignored information from experts about the risks of removing protected status to Native American sacred places and archeological sites. Comments made by USDI staff in the concealed documents show that some references were kept out of the public eye because they were "revealing [the] strategy" behind the review.

It is unconscionable for the Administration to move ahead with new plans for these lands while the court cases on their designation are still unsettled. Yet, USDI's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is now inviting the public to review draft Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Kanab-Escalante Planning Area plans (deadline Nov.15). Of the four alternatives described, three pertain to varying levels of "management flexibility" regarding types and levels of exploitation that would occur. All three would result in irretrievable harm to the natural and cultural resources. Only the "no action" alternative is justifiable, since redrawing of the monument boundaries was an illegal act now being challenged in court.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: By Nov.15, comment on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Kanab-Escalante Planning Area plans, stating that the "No Action" alternative is the only legitimate one in view of the fact that the Administration's redrawing of the of the Monument boundaries may well be determined by current court action to have been an illegal act. Mail comments to BLM, 669 S Hwy 89A Kanab, UT 84741, Attn: Matt Betenson; or e-mail to <https://goo.gl/EHvhbc>.

5D. Obama policy for NPS rescinded by Sec. Zinke

Under President Obama, the National Park Services developed a policy known as "Director's Order 100." This policy placed protection of the natural resources of the national parks as the highest priority, and emphasized using science to reach that goal. Every step was to be taken to maintain the resources of the park and to place ecosystem health ahead of recreational activities. The directive also acknowledged climate change, and made planning for that change present in everything from how NPS conducted fire management to how it dealt with control of invasive species.

Shortly after Trump took office, that directive was rescinded by orders traced to USDI Secretary Zinke, and driven by other Trump appointees with interests in mining, drilling, and hunting.

5E. National Park Service Director finally nominated

After nearly 20 months of letting the National Park Service operate without an official director, Pres. Trump, on August 31, nominated David Vela for the job. Some of us met Vela when he served as director of the NPS's Southeast Region. His present position is superintendent of Grand Teton

National Park. As NPS Director, he will play an essential role in protecting 417 of America’s most treasured places and oversee the management of more than 20,000 National Park Service employees.

“During his tenure with the Park Service, Vela has established a robust program to train the next generation of park leaders prioritizing inclusion and diverse partnerships,” said Theresa Pierno, NPCA’s President and CEO. “Vela is a problem solver and is poised to take on many obstacles facing our parks as director, including threats from development, air and water pollution, climate change, and record visitation. One of the more difficult challenges will be addressing an already underfunded National Park Service and its nearly \$12 billion in needed repairs” (See ¶5B, above).

6. OTHER NATIONAL ISSUES

6A. WOTUS restored (in many states) – for now

In February, the Trump Administration issued an order suspending the WOTUS (Waters of the United States) rule for two years while EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers worked up a new version. This Suspension Rule was nullified on August 16 by U.S. District Judge (for the District of South Carolina) David Norton, when he issued a nationwide injunction against it. The suit had been brought by SELC (Southern Environmental Law Center) on behalf of several environmental groups.

WOTUS now applies in 26 states (including Tennessee); it does not apply in the other 24 states where legal challenges are pending. The rule clarifies the scope of waters protected by the Clean Water Act, reinstating the original objective of the CWA to protect wetlands and small headwaters streams, and not just larger rivers. By putting these safeguards back in place for more than half the country, Judge Norton’s ruling helps ensure clean drinking water for more than 117 million people.

Unfortunately, this is not yet the end of the threat to WOTUS. (a) Nullification of the Suspension Rule may be appealed by the Administration and by industry groups. (b) EPA may very shortly issue a Replacement Rule for public comment. (c) There may also be a Repeal Rule in the works.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Speak up for clean water! Contact your congressman and senators (addresses on p. 2), write a letter to the editor, or use other opportunities. Our present WOTUS rule must be retained.

6B. Administration and Congress working to dismantle Endangered Species Act

In mid-July, the USDI’s Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service proposed three major rules changes that would essentially dismantle the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA), imperiling the more than 1,600 threatened and endangered species.

- A ‘threatened’ species would not receive protections until it had advanced to the status of ‘endangered,’ i.e., until the

population had become so small that species survival may be challenging or impossible to achieve.

- Climate change would be eliminated from key parts of the law, making it more difficult to protect the polar bear, the bearded seal, and many other imperiled species that are severely impacted by the effects of global warming.
- Analysis of economic factors would be a requirement in deciding whether a species should be saved. This rules change would eliminate longstanding language that *prohibits* considering economic factors in decision making.

The proposed rules changes are clearly geared toward enabling offshore drilling, oil & gas extractions from ANWR, and industrial projects such as mines, pipelines, and road building. The agencies’ responsibility to address climate change would be all but eliminated.

Contemporaneously with the Administration’s attack on the ESA, Republicans in the House of Representatives are seeking an overhaul of the ESA. No fewer than nine bills have been introduced to amend the 1973 Act.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Tell your Congressman to oppose any and all of these nine bills. Urge your Senators to support ESA as it stands now. (Addresses on p. 2)

6C. EPA leadership goes from abysmal to really bad.

The Pruitt legacy. In just one year, EPA Chief Scott Pruitt managed to finalize 22 deregulatory actions to roll back environmental protections, actions that will impact everything from clean water to greenhouse gas emissions. Here are some of his other “achievements.”

- Scientists receiving EPA grant funding can no longer serve on any of the agency’s scientific advisory committees. This ban excludes some of the nation’s top environmental scientists, but not industry-funded scientists.
- Pruitt appointed 18 of 44 members of EPA’s main science advisory board (SAB) and appointed a chair (Michael Honeycutt) who is a long-time opponent of stricter air quality standards.
- When calculating the cost-benefit analysis for a regulation, EPA can no longer consider “co-benefits,” e.g., decreases in air toxics that result from a climate-change rule.

The Wheeler prospect. In early July, Pres. Trump named EPA’s Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler as Acting Administrator. Wheeler had worked as legislative aide to the Senate’s No. 1 climate-change denier, Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK). Subsequently, as a coal industry lobbyist, he fought energetically against the Obama Clean Power Plan. His other former clients include numerous industries regulated by the EPA. As EPA head, he is likely to use his bureaucratic knowledge to continue to work for the goals of these past clients.

As Rep. Raul Grijalva said, “Wheeler may not be as blatantly and carelessly corrupt [as Pruitt] -- but he is just as

bent on destroying the EPA from the inside and turning over our environment to corporate control.”

unlined and clay-lined pits. On Aug. 21, the US Court of Appeals for DC sided with this position.

6D. A great increase in mining footprint per ton of coal produced

A recent study by Pericak et al. (PLoS ONE 13[7]) that used Google Earth Engine and Landsat imagery to map the yearly extent of surface coal mining has found that, in Central Appalachia (WV, VA, KY, TN), 2,900 km² of land was newly mined between 1985 and 2015. Each metric ton of coal recovered was associated with 12 m² of actively mined land. There was a threefold increase between the early and late part of this period in the amount of land disturbed per ton of coal produced.

Between the mid-1970s and 2015, the total amount of cleared land due to surface mining accounts for 7.1% of Central Appalachia - or one out of every 14 acres. Put another way, the total area is roughly three times that of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

7B. EPA nibbling at Clean Power Plan

Full repeal of Obama’s Clean Power Plan without a replacement (which is what Scott Pruitt had in mind) would have been dead on arrival in the courts. Instead, EPA is trying to turn the Clean Power Plan into a Dirty Power Plan.

In late August, the Administration unveiled a proposal that would empower *states* to establish emission standards for coal-fired power plants, rather than speeding retirement of these plants. This arrangement is projected to release at least 12 times as much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere over the next decade, as would be released under the Clean Power Plan. The EPA estimates that the proposed measure will affect more than 300 U.S. coal-powered plants, providing companies with an incentive to keep such plants in operation rather than replacing them with cleaner natural gas or renewable-energy projects.

6E. The Wall’s harm to biodiversity

[Information from defenders.org]

On August 7, the peer-reviewed journal *BioScience* published an article entitled “Nature Divided, Scientists United: US–Mexico Border Wall Threatens Biodiversity and Binational Conservation.” More than 2,500 scientists had signed on at the time of its publication; less than a week later, another 200 had been added. (We don’t know the present number.)

The paper found that efforts to build the wall “threaten some of the continent’s most biologically diverse regions,” and that the already constructed segments of the wall “are reducing the area, quality, and connectivity of plant and animal habitats and are compromising more than a century of binational investment in conservation.”

Animals cut off from parts of their habitat include endangered species. The Wall would also impact scientific research itself.

7C. Forecasts for energy mix

In mid-July, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) made the following 2018 and 2019 forecasts for utility-scale electricity generation:

Source	2017	2018	2019
Natural gas	32*	34	35
Coal	30	28	27
Nuclear	20	>20	>20
Hydro	7	<7	<7
Non-hydro renewables	<10	>10	11

*Percentages are shown throughout

Other than for natural gas and coal, the predictions show little change in the other sources of energy. EIA is part of the US Dept. of Energy, which has shown little interest in increasing renewables.

7D. Carbon sequestration by vegetation

[Information from the Nature Conservancy and TennGreen]

We need to eliminate 30 gigatons of carbon emissions per year (1 gigaton = 1 billion metric tons) by 2030 to keep global temperature increases well below 2°C (3.6°F). A significant part of the excess carbon in the atmosphere could be removed by protection, wise management, and restoration of forests, croplands, wetlands, grazing lands, and grasslands. Plants absorb atmospheric CO₂. Forests store carbon within trees, undergrowth, roots, leaf layers, and soils,

- Protection is in general more cost effective than restoration.
- It takes 766,000,000 acres of forests to offset 16% of domestic CO₂ emissions; obviously, sequestration is only part of the solution, though an important one.
- The amount per year of CO₂ sequestered by the above amount of forestland is equivalent to the annual emissions from 50 million gas- or diesel-fueled vehicles;

7. CLIMATE CHANGE; ENERGY

7A. Administration weakens coal ash protections

In mid-July, EPA proposed relaxing the rules for disposing the ash from coal-fired power plants.

- It extended by 18 months the time that unlined ponds and groundwater-adjacent sites may be used for dumping. The Obama Administration sought to phase out those sites by April 2019.
- It weakened the testing standards for lead, cobalt, lithium, and molybdenum in adjacent waters.

Environmentalists have argued that even the Obama-era rules for coal-ash disposal were not strong enough to protect citizens against toxic metals in water leaking from

7E. Complexities for assessing effects of sequestration

Drought increases atmospheric CO₂ concentration

(Summarized from *ScienceDaily*, 8/29/18, sent by Chet Hunt, CCL, Knoxville)

Climate change causes droughts. When soils dry out, plants reduce photosynthesis and breathe less in order to save water and preserve their tissues. As a consequence, they are no longer able to capture carbon dioxide from the surrounding air, and more CO₂ remains in the atmosphere. One of the greatest challenges for assessing the impact of this on the whole planet has been to measure where and how often droughts occur globally. A new study that used innovative satellite technology to measure the global sensitivity of ecosystems to water stress has now shown that the effects of droughts are stronger than has so far been estimated by vegetation models.

Excessive atmospheric CO₂ decreases plant nutrients

A favorite talking point of climate deniers is that the excessive amount of CO₂ contributed by fossil fuels has greatly benefited the planet's greenery. Actually, additional CO₂, while it increases plant yield, can lead to lower concentrations of nutrients such as nitrogen, copper, and potassium. The CO₂ may accelerate the rate at which soil microbes take up nutrients, leaving less for plants.

8. TCWP NEWS

8A. Upcoming activities

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

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

National Public Lands Day Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® at Worthington Cemetery - Saturday, September 29

TCWP and TVA will partner again 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. Joining us as cosponsor this year will be the Manhattan Project National Historic Park.

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.

We'll meet for the cleanup at 9 a.m. at the Elza Gate Park picnic area near the intersection of Oak Ridge Turnpike and Melton Lake Drive. At the completion of our work (around noon), TCWP will provide a pizza lunch. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothes, and bring water, gloves, and clippers, loppers, or bow or pruning saws, if possible. Other tools and equipment will also be available

at the worksite. For more information, contact Jimmy Groton at (865) 805-9908 or at groton87@comcast.net.

Three Bends Canoe Outing – Saturday, October 6

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

Please join TCWP and AFORR on Saturday, October 6, for the first in a series of scenic paddle trips in the Three (Four) Bends "Blueway" along Melton Hill Lake.

We'll meet at noon at Solway boat launch park (on Edgemoor Drive in Oak Ridge, across from Centennial Village Apartments) and paddle downstream on Melton Hill Lake along the shore of Solway Bend in the scenic Three Bends Area. We hope to enjoy several quiet and scenic undeveloped inlets, probable wildlife sightings, and much greenery. There may even be an historical building or two visible along the way.

Participants can bring their own canoes or kayaks; for those who need one, TCWP is arranging to rent several canoes from River Sports. Rental cost will be \$25 per person, with two people per canoe. The number of available rental canoes (which come with paddles and life jackets) will be limited, so please register early for a spot.

Personal flotation devices (life jackets) must be worn, and all participants must sign a TCWP sign-in sheet. Transportation back from the Pump House road inlet take-out spot to Solway Park will be provided

The trip is an easy paddle, and will take about two hours at a leisurely pace. Bring a lunch and water; sunscreen and a hat are also recommended.

Please register by September 30 with Sandra Goss at 865-583-3967 or sandra@sandragoss.com.

Norris Watershed Hike – Saturday, October 20

[Contributed by Joe Feeman]

The Norris Municipal Watershed, situated adjacent to Norris Dam State Park, is a 2,300-acre area that is the watershed of Clear Creek; it is managed for water quality protection, sustainable forest management, and public recreation. A network of about 30 miles of forest roads and single-track trails are managed by the Norris Watershed Board.

For this year's hike, we'll meet in front of Norris Middle School at 9 a.m. After a short stroll through downtown Norris to the Eric Harold Park, we will take a short trail to Hickory Trail Road, then hike Eagle Trail all the way to Observation Point. After climbing up to take in the view, we'll hike over to Deer Ridge Trail and then to Deer Ridge Road, where we will continue down by the elementary school, around the commons, and back up to the starting point. Much of Eagle Trail was constructed by the CCC in the mid 1930s, and a shelter was also constructed on Observation Point. The hike, which passes through some nice old forest, meanders down a hollow and travels along the contour above the Clinch River before climbing up a ridge. It is about four miles, with one climb of about a half-mile.

Participants can meet for carpooling in Oak Ridge 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 8:15 a.m.; or meet the group at Norris Middle School at 9 a.m. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water and snacks or a lunch. For more information, call Joe Feeman at (865) 457-8191.

TCWP Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 27

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

Everyone is invited to TCWP's 52th Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 27, at the Library Building in Fairfield Glade, Cumberland County, Tennessee. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Shari Mehreblan will be the keynote speaker. Following her remarks, a business meeting to elect TCWP officers, and lunch, there will be a choice of hikes, one on Fairfield Glade property and one on a nearby segment of the Cumberland Trail.

Watch for a brochure coming soon with details about the meeting and how to register.

Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® – Saturday, November 3

The Oak Ridge Cedar Barren will again be the site of exotic invasive plant removal as we conduct our fall cleanup, our third and final cleanup of the year. Located next to Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge, the Barren is a joint project of the City of Oak Ridge, 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 bushy lespedeza, leatherleaf viburnum, privet, autumn olive, mimosa, Nepal grass, multiflora rose, and woody plants that threaten the system's prairie grasses. Our efforts help to eliminate invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sunlight.

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

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.

8B. Recent events

[Compiled by Carol Grametbauer]

Discover Life in America BioBlitz at Worthington Cemetery – Saturday, July 14

[Contributed by Sandra Goss]

The July 14 BioBlitz at Worthington Cemetery TVA Ecological Study Area featured 30 folks of all ages swarming over the 29-acre tract in Oak Ridge. Using the iNaturalist app, participants uploaded pictures of 168 species.

With help from Discover Life In America and the Tennessee Valley Authority, many plants and insects were photographed and uploaded to the app, which identified each species and stored its presence on the Ecological Study Area on the iNaturalist website.

To produce good pictures of insects, each was put in a vial and then put on ice for a few minutes. In that very cold state, the insect, on a white background, was a great subject for photography, using a magnifying lens. In one case, iNaturalist identified not only a damselfly (everyone there already knew what it was), but also the tiny red parasites on its legs, visible only with the magnifying lens.

Nature lovers with smart phones and the help of the iNaturalist app can now identify nearly anything they encounter.

Kids in the Creek - Saturday, July 14

[Contributed by Jimmy Groton]

TCWP and the Emory River Watershed Association, along with TWRA, TVA, and TDEC, co-hosted the second annual Kids in the Creek event at Devil's Breakfast Table in the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. ERWA Vice President David Hennessee arranged lunches and drinks for everyone, courtesy of the Morgan County Schools. David, Belinda Woodiel-Brill, and Jimmy Groton represented TCWP and ERWA at the event, and two Obed Watershed Community Association volunteers picked up litter at the site. The three state or federal agencies assisting with the event were represented by Mark Thurman (TWRA), Larry Everett (TDEC), and John Justice and John Michael Mollish (TVA).

Only three families were able to attend, but despite the small turnout we had a great time talking about stream ecology and using kick nets, dip nets, and seines to catch and look at fish and benthic macroinvertebrates up close and personal. Mark also brought several sets of masks and snorkels, which allowed everyone to watch fish in a natural and non-stressful setting.

Summer Cedar Barren Cleanup/Weed Wrangle® - Saturday, August 25

[Contributed by Tim Bigelow]

We had a clear, warm morning for our summer cleanup, and lots of wildflowers to enjoy. Nine volunteers worked on removing a large crop of Chinese lespedeza and other invasives. The blazing stars were just starting to bloom, and black-eyed Susans were plentiful. Volunteers enjoyed a tour of the meadow areas in nearly full bloom, and a pizza lunch after a morning of work.

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. Our spring, summer, and fall cleanups help to eliminate invasives and other shade-producing plants that prevent the prairie grasses from getting needed sun. The late-summer workdays are optimum for viewing prairie wildflowers that flourish at the barren.

8C. Ted Snyder, remembered**for leading North Shore Road opposition**

Ted Snyder, a prominent Sierra Club member who died June 29 at 85, was deeply and successfully involved in many important battles: establishing the Chattoga River (GA and SC) as a Wild & Scenic River, protecting SC's Congaree Swamp as a national park, and passage of the Eastern Wilderness Act in 1975. TCWP members and others dedicated to protecting the Gt. Smoky Mountains NP, remember him gratefully for the major role he played in opposing the North Shore Road — also known as the “Road to Nowhere.” After 35 years of effort, Ted played a major role in negotiating a financial settlement between the USDI, TVA, the state of NC, and Swain County, N.C. (NL340 ¶3).

8D. Contribution from the Unitarian Church

In July, TCWP was, once again, the grateful recipient of ORUUC's “Split the Plate” collection. The amount received was well over \$1,000, which will be put to good use.

8E. Access to Whites Creek SWA trailhead

A major landslide occurred earlier this year from the last section of the road that leads down to the shore where parking for the trailhead is located. Jimmy Groton and Johnny Cosgrove recently scouted the situation and found that, though that section of road is closed to vehicles, it is accessible on foot.

8F. Thanks, and a tip of the hat to

[compiled by Sandra Goss]



- Todd Witcher and Melinda Watson for their help with Bio-Blitz at Worthington Cemetery.
- Mark Thurman, Jon Michael Mollish, John Justice, and Larry Everett for their help with Kids in the Creek.
- Jean Bangham, John Bates, Jimmy Groton, Joe Horton, Patsy Monk, Eileen Neiler, Marese Nephew, Gary Salk, Marti Salk for their help with preparing the *TCWP News-letter* for distribution.
- Michele Thornton for her help with the TCWP website.
- Tim Bigelow and Jimmy Groton for their leadership and knowledge at the August Oak Ridge Cedar Barren Cleanup.
- Jimmy Groton and Johnny Cosgrove for scouting the Whites Creek SWA access after the landslide

8G. Friends and members in the news

[Compiled by Sandra Goss]

- Kris Harris Light was featured in an article about her science education programs in the July 5 *Oak Ridger*, and an announcement about a wildflower hike in the July 6 *Oak Ridger*.
- Joe Feeman wrote articles about his Wyoming and Idaho travels in the July 11, 18 and September 5 issues of *Norris Bulletin* and about his European travels in the August 1 and 8 issues.
- Brian Paddock is pictured and quoted in an article about state water quality standards in the July 22 *News Sentinel*.
- Alex Wyss co-wrote an article about healthy soil in the July 26 *News Sentinel*.
- Harriett McCurdy is pictured at a meet the candidate event in the July 26 *Oak Ridger*.
- Ruth Young wrote a letter about TCWP (*thanks for the compliments, Ruth*) in the August 2 *Oak Ridger*.
- Doris Gove will be inducted into the East Tennessee Writers Hall of Fame in October, according to an August 22 article in the *News Sentinel*.

8H. Executive Director's column

Dear TCWP Friends,

As you can see, our national agencies are working with rule changes, environmental reports, and other issues related in these pages. One particularly complex and important issue is the dismantling of rules and laws that provide the legal framework for protecting our water.

Those who follow this issue exclusively tell us that a Replacement Rule may be issued in the next several weeks (see ¶6A, this NL). TCWP and sister organizations are preparing for this and we need your help! We need folks who will write letters to editors, visit with editorial boards, and otherwise speak up for the importance of clean water.

Training and other support are available to interested volunteers, and all activities are scheduled around your availability. Please consider helping with this. One easy step: sign the petition at www.protectssouthernwater.com.

Water is vital to our way of life; indeed, it is vital to life. Help us keep it protected.

TCWP's Program Committee is putting the finishing touches on our 2018 activities, and looking toward next year. Next month we'll start a three-part exploration of a Blue Way on Melton Lake, learn about the challenges and opportunities that Tennessee's Department of Environment and Conservation faces in the new year (courtesy of Commissioner Shari Meghreblian), explore a new to TCWP trail at Fairfield Glade, and see a bit of the magnificent Norris Watershed.

There are openings in the Obed Citizen Scientist Water Sampling Program, where training and materials are made available to those willing to help measure *E.coli* after heavy

rain events. We need help with preparing the TCWP Newsletter for distribution, and with other and varied tasks. Want to help? Call me!

Mark your calendar for December 13 for the TCWP Holiday Party — good times!!

9. CALENDAR; RESOURCES

•• CALENDAR (events and deadlines)

(For details, check the referenced NL item; or contact Sandra Goss, 865-583-3967, or Sandra@sandrakgoss.com)

- Sept. 21 – Hike with a ranger in the Lilly Bluff area (Call 423-286-7275 for info).
- Sept. 22 - Ranger-led bike ride, Elza to Edgemoor Gate sites (Call 865-482-1942 for info)
- Sept. 29 - National Public Lands Day Cleanup at Worthington Cemetery (see ¶8A, this NL).
- Oct. 1 – Comment deadline for TVA vegetation in transmission ROWs (see ¶4A, this NL).
- Oct. 2 - 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (see ¶2A, this NL).

- Oct. 4 – Comment deadline for Dale Hollow Plan (see ¶3B, this NL).
- Oct. 6 - Three Bends Canoe Outing (see ¶8A, this NL).
- Oct. 12-14 - APIEL conference (see ¶3F, this NL).
- Oct. 20 - Norris Watershed hike (see ¶8A, this NL).
- Oct. 27 - TCWP Annual Meeting (see ¶8A, this NL).
- Nov. 3 - Fall Cedar Barren Cleanup (see ¶8A, this NL).
- Nov. 6 (or earlier) – Vote! (see ¶1, this NL).
- Nov. 15 - Comment deadline for national monument exploitation plans (see ¶5C, this NL).
- Dec. 13 – TCWP Holiday Party

•• RESOURCES

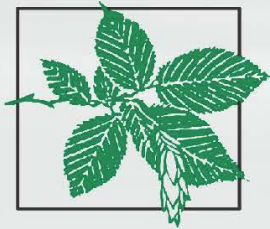
- The Legacy Parks Foundation has recently released the second edition of *Urban Hikes in Knoxville and Knox County*, written by members of the Sierra Club's Harvey Broome Group. The book sells for \$25, and is available for purchase at REI, Union Avenue Books, Three Rivers Market, Mast General Store, Ijams Nature Center, and online from Legacy Parks Foundation. All proceeds go to Legacy Parks Foundation, which has been instrumental in promoting parkland acquisition and trail building.

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 27 – Community Shares Campaign Party
- September 29 - National Public Lands Day - Worthington Cemetery
- October 2 - 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- October 6 – Solway Bend Canoe Trip
- October 7 – Community Shares Brewers’ Jam
- October 12—14 Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law (APIEL) Conference
- October 20 – Norris Watershed Hike led by Joe Feeman
- October 27 – Annual Meeting