Gary Wolf and Sundog Solar at The End of Their Rope

by Christopher Anderson
Sierra Club - Middle TN Group, Conservation Vice-chair

It has come to my attention that a dear friend and long-time proponent of solar energy in TN has decided to call it quits and move his solar installation business to Central America. Gary Wolf, of Sundog Solar, an installer since 2007, was also an original employee and first crew leader for the first full-time solar PV installation company in Tennessee. He is one of a very few certified solar installers in Tennessee to be a licensed electrical contractor, and the only electrical contractor in Tennessee to have two solar certifications. Gary established and taught a solar installer training program at the College of Applied Technology in Dickson, Tennessee. He has designed, installed and serviced more types and sizes of solar PV systems than any other solar installer in the state.

After speaking with him last night, he wrote to me, “I’m confident solar energy is inevitable. Clean, reliable, safe, free fuel from the sun is an obvious piece of our energy future. But the state of Tennessee abandoned its support with a change in administration and TVA is now undermining its own program to build a solar infrastructure here. Both the state and TVA programs have been poorly designed, mismanaged, and counter to the long-term public interest.

Less importantly, they’ve made Sundog Solar an unsustainable small family business. For Janie and me, our best alternative is to speed up our retirement plan to move to Central America. The changes TVA made in its solar program for 2013 have made it impossible for a small company focused on residential systems to stay in business. TVA’s new capacity limits effectively closed the annual program in April and meant Sundog Solar couldn’t provide work for its crew - the only one in the state composed entirely of NABCEP entry-level certified installers, all of whom were graduates of the solar program in Dickson. Sundog Solar was able to survive a bit longer because other solar companies lacking technical expertise hired us to install or service their systems. But to prosper in the immediate future, Tennessee solar companies will have to focus on smaller-scale home systems. TVA has the unique potential to be a national leader on renewables and all of the sustainable jobs and industry it can provide. Now, more than ever, we need to keep the pressure on all fossil fuel extraction! After seeing and smelling so many leaks and seeps around oil/gas fracking wells in our State Park and TWRA public lands on our beloved Cumberland Plateau, many of us are saying natural gas is a gang-plank, not a bridge! There is a better way!

Gary Wolf was my solar contractor for my 4.2 mW solar system that sits by Highway 100 in Bellevue. Gary was very knowledgeable and extremely easy to work with. He was flexible enough to allow me to do parts of the work myself even though that stretched the project over several more months than it would have if he had done it all. Being a general contractor myself for the past thirty years I appreciated Gary’s patience. I also appreciated Gary’s enthusiasm for solar energy and his eagerness to teach me as much as I wanted to learn about the subject. Gary has had a history of being a teacher and that really shows when you work with him. In fact, my project became a “teaching moment” for six students at a Dickson County solar installers school who volunteered to share three of their Sundays helping Gary and I with the installation. They were all so enamored with Gary and eager to learn what he had to say that they kept coming back to work for free. I got the benefit not only of saving money but also of being in the background and absorbing a huge amount of knowledge by “sitting” in the “back of the class.”

Gary Wolf probably knows as much about solar electric installations as anyone in Tennessee and I dare say, more than many that work in the TVA solar program. To push him out of business was a huge mistake, and he will be greatly missed.

Eric Lewis
Solar Works Construction; Frack-free TN; Sierra Club member

(continued on page 2)
It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on wind and solar resources. We need to include our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

Add your voice to protect the planet: Join The Sierra Club

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Join today and receive your
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Send change of address to: Barbara Kelly, Communications Committee, bk1rivers@comcast.net.

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When I read about feed-in-tariffs as the sliced bread of solar energy markets, I always wonder why they are needed. TVA's program is never mentioned. The 10-year pilot program that led to the Green Power Providers program is always cited as an example of how to move forward. But why not TVA's program? It has long touted TVA's support for solar. Its production-based GPP incentive (currently $0.09/kWh for 20 years) is a great thing for homeowners and small business owners wanting to install solar as a long-term investment. It's a great way to make solar cheaper in these early days of being a little too expensive to match dirty coal, hurtful hydro and dangerous nuclear.

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When people ask me about solar in The Valley, I think of the Sierra Club's role with their pilot renewable energy program a decade ago and apparently decided solar was worth nothing more than window dressing and photo opportunities while they went on with their true business of trying to build more nuclear power plants instead.

Tennes-Sierran

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:
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*Postal Service: Gene Van Horn, Editor
USPS: Gene Van Horn, Editor
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Spring City, TN 37381
(423) 365-0692

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
Submission Target Date is November 25 for the January-February issue.
1. E-mail and e-mail attached files are preferred. Send to gvnahorn26@gmail.com either with embedded text messages, or attached files. Attached files are preferred. Word is preferred but Apple users may send articles in Pages. Photographs should be scanned in a JPEG or tiff format then attached to e-mail or mailed via U.S. Postal Service on a 3.5” diskette or CD ROM. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your diskette or photo prints returned.
2. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted; however, pre-approval from the Editor is required. Any materials submitted via USPS mail will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.
3. Concerns or complaints should be addressed to Barbara Kelly, Communications Committee, bk1rivers@comcast.net.
4. Opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

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TVA is Stuck on Nuclear

By Don Safer

TVA is clinging to the shattered dream of nuclear power despite the horror being inflicted on the people of Japan by the triple melt-down at Fukushima. Nuclear spending continues despite the $25+ billion of debt TVA has incurred from it. The delusion persists in defiance of long-standing chronic problems in TVA's nuclear construction and operations. It survives without progress in the position of vast quantities of toxic, mutagenic radioactive waste. TVA’s nuclear fantasy endures despite growing successes in solar, wind, renewables and energy efficiency. Ironically, TVA, an agency founded to promote positive change now resists it and is mired in a destructive energy paradigm.

The Tennessee Valley Authority has six operating nuclear reactors, one under construction, two with construction licenses and is moving forward with the nation’s first small modular reactors. TVA wrongly believes that nuclear power is an acceptable answer to carbon pollution. TVA’s three Browns Ferry reactors near Decatur, Alabama are GE Mark 1’s; the same design as the Fukushima reactors. Many experts consider this design the worst of the operating reactors in the United States. In 2011 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission gave Browns Ferry the only “Red” serious safety warning in the U.S. for numerous violations and concerns. That warning is still in place. Local citizen/activists have found increased levels of radiation and various health issues downwind of Browns Ferry (go to www.matrr.org for details). These reactors were designed in the 1960’s and are now over 40 years old.

TVA’s other reactors, Sequoyah and Watts Bar, are Ice Condenser designs, another attempt to lower the cost of construction. The high cost of nuclear power always creates conflicts between cost and safety. Ice condensers surround the nuclear reaction chamber with 3 million pounds of ice chips hung in tall skinny bas- ket. The ice chips are supposed to lessen the temperature and pres- sure of a loss of coolant accident so the containment structures were built smaller and thinner than large, dry containments. Subsequent analysis indicated a high risk of containment failure so only nine were built and the concept abandoned. TVA operates three of these and is finishing Watts Bar Unit 2. To learn more about ice condensers and using Watts Bar Unit 1 to manufacture tritium for nuclear weapons read Kenneth Bergeron’s book, Tritium on Ice. Both Watts Bar and Sequoyah have been identified as being at risk for catastrophic flood damage from the Tennessee River.

Watts Bar is located between Knoxville and Chattanooga. Construction started in 1973. Unit 1 has been operating since 1996. Unit 2 is scheduled to come on line in 2015 – 42 years after work started. In 2007 when work resumed the cost to finish estimate was $2.5 billion. Two years ago TVA increased that to $4+ billion and added two years to the construction schedule. Incredibly they said the increase would not affect ratepayers. Unit 2 is being given a 40-year license. With a 20-year extension it could be operating 100 years after the foundation was poured. Both units have been plagued with numerous construction problems.

The Sequoyah reactors are 15 miles from Chattanooga. Their 40-year licenses will expire in 2020 and 2021. TVA has asked the NRC for a 20-year extension. Concerned citizens led by the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) have petitioned the NRC against the extension and have requested a hearing on the matter. The request was neither granted nor denied. Efforts continue to fight the license extension.

TVA also holds two construction licenses for more relics from the past, the partially built, “zombie reactors” at Bellefonte, near Scottsboro, Alabama. These are zombies because they had been abandoned and cannibalized before the TVA Board voted to finish unit 1 in 2011. Around $5 billion has been spent on these. It is estimated to take another $5 billion to finish one reactor. Its latest setback was announced in June when TVA announced the layoff of 415 of the 540 workers on site.

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are the latest hope of the nuclear industry and TVA is leading the way with a pilot project in Oak Ridge. These are really nothing new; they use the same fission process to create the same waste stream. It is TVA’s responsibility to safely decommission all of its reactors once they are shut down. TVA’s decommissioning fund contains about $1 billion. That might be enough for one reactor. Future generations will have to pay the difference.

TVA has announced another Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process starting up soon. They seem to have predetermined that nuclear will take on an even greater role in the future, thus undermining the IRP. It is up to concerned citizens to demand that TVA give renewables and energy efficiency an unbiased evaluation. TVA should move away from dirty, destructive energy sources and toward a sustainable energy future.

Solar Power and Electricity Providers

By Gene Van Horn

The companies that provide electricity have begun to hinder the installation of solar panels. Michael Grunwald noted this in an article entitled Grid Politics (Time Magazine July 8-15, 2013). He mentioned that during President Obama’s first term solar installations increased by more than 1,000% and that solar prices have decreased 80% since 2009. The increase in solar installations on rooftops is shifting the generation of electricity from central plants to scattered homes and businesses.

Increasing local electrical generation means decreasing transmission of electricity from central plants to scattered homes and businesses. Increasing local generation means decreasing transmission of electricity from central plants to scattered homes and businesses.

The German government, of course, has standardized before the TVA Board voted to finish unit 1 in 2011. Around $5 billion has been spent on these. It is estimated to take another $5 billion to finish one reactor. Its latest setback was announced in June when TVA announced the layoff of 415 of the 540 workers on site.

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Election Ballot of At-Large Delegates for the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee 2014-2015 Term

Please vote below in the election of three (3) At-Large members to the Tennessee Chapter Executive Committee, each having a two-year term of office beginning January 1, 2014. They will join our three other At-Large Delegates and Group Delegates in managing the fiscal, legislative, environmental, outings and other responsibilities for our Chapter.

"Paperless Subscribers" may vote as well as those receiving the Tennes-Sierran in the mail, but membership must be current; follow the directions as given below.

Only members (as of November 1, 2014) may vote. Joint Members use the same ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by December 15, 2014.

Tennessee Chapter At-Large Election for 2014
You may vote for four (4) candidates (listed in random order):

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Keven Routon
Keven and his wife, Susan, and much of their extended family reside on 15 acres north of Memphis. He served in the US Navy for more than 22 years, and has continued to work for the Navy for an additional 20 years as a civilian employee. He is a member of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom) since 2006. He has been a member of the Tennes-Sierran Executive Committee (ExCom) since 2006. He has been a member of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom) since 2006. He has been a member of the Tennes-Sierran Executive Committee (ExCom) since 2006. He has been a member of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom) since 2006. He has been a member of the Tennes-Sierran Executive Committee (ExCom) since 2006. He has been a member of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom) since 2006. He has been a member of the Tennes-Sierran Executive Committee (ExCom) since 2006. He has been a member of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom) since 2006.

Cliff Cockerham
Cliff first started working on environmental issues in 1973 when the legislature appointed him to the Environmental Management Council of Central Upstate New York as an advocate for beverage container legislation and glass recycling programs. Since then he worked on a wide range of environmental education programs, conservation issues, and ecological studies at Cornell University, Georgetown University, Emory University, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and Pompeu Agricultural & Trade School in Micronesia. In 1979, Cliff was an NGO observer at the UN Conference on Trade and Development in Manila. In 1980, Cliff served as correrent for the DC-based NGO response to U.S. policies elaborated at the UN Conference on Energy in Nairobi. In the current year, Cliff took on the task of reviewing the Chapter Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee, which he currently chairs. In April 2013 he was one of the opening speakers of EPV's National Environmental Justice Training Institute, organized the EJ workshop for APIEL (Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law conference) in October 2013, and is currently putting together 2 more ElS sessions for national conferences in 2014.

In 2011, Sierra Club (SC) President Robin Mann received SC national's Robie Cox Award for meaningful contributions to the progress of the Sierra Student Coalition. In 2012 this same award went to Cliff Cockerham for his work beginning in 2010 to revive TN's Environmental Education Committee, which now has a network of SC representatives on Tennessee college campuses who are poised to work with, and incorporating high school students of the Sierra Student Coalition (SSC). As Chapter Chair for Environmental Education, Cliff works closely with Joy Mayfield, who chairs the MTG Environmental Education Committee, while he simultaneously serves as MTG liaison with the Sierra Student Coalition. Cliffs ongoing efforts to grow the Water Seminars Student Project, which engages high school students in monitoring local water quality in TN streams and creeks. Taken together over the last 4 years, these efforts have led to 20 scholarships for students representing TN at SC's national environmental youth leadership programs, 2 TN students representing the youth perspective at the Green Jobs Conference, 3 of the Water Seminars-Student Project, 24 TN students meeting with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack to describe their SSC environmental research & advocacy projects.

These students have gone on to recruit and engage fellow students on a wide range of environmental education, service, and research projects that have garnered media attention, impactful legislation, and溪he re-found individual student voice is powerful in emphasizing one of the overarching themes of this environmental work, Cliff explained: "All our efforts for the greater good are important, but if we fail to get a handle on climate change, nothing else will matter. For that reason, I hope you'll vote for me to continue serving on the TN Chapter ExCom, advocating for & facilitating youth engagement in SC initiatives. Together we can make a difference in tomorrow will bring, but only if we start today.

Asl Ring
I would like to be re-elected to the Chapter ExCom as an at-large delegate. I have served on the ExCom continuously since 2001 and also as a Conservation-Vice Chair, Wild Legacy SuperCommittee Chair, Water Quality Committee Chair, Population Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair. I have also chaired the Chapter Litigation Committee, and consider myself to be a committed activist. I currently serve as Water Quality Committee Chair, Population Committee Chair, and Biodiversity Committee Chair. I am active in the TN Beyond Coal Campaign, and supervise our Mountain Top Removal campaign's contract organizer. I also serve as the Chapter’s representative to the TN Oil & Gas Working Group, addressing fracking issues in TN. If elected, I believe I can continue to be an asset to the Tennessee Chapter.

Christopher Anderson
I have been hunting, fishing, exploring, enjoying and protecting the natural world around Tennessee's streams before I could walk. I have worked on a host of conservation issues including mining, fossil fuels, integrated solid waste management and market development, regional transportation, and community garden networks to name a few. I managed the largest certified organic farm in TN, as my true passion is water (Agriculture is the #1 or 2 source of water pollution worldwide), and I have done more cleanups and rehab projects than I can remember. My travels have taken me all over the world. I've ripped lips and braved the high seas from the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of Alaska, and have gathered quite a broad array of perspectives on conservation. More recently, some of the most rewarding experiences of my life have come from being a Nashville Inner City Outings Program leader. Meeting so many wonderful young people, many of whom have never even seen a crawdad, has made me realize how incredibly privileged I was growing up with a stream and a garden behind my house and strengthened my resolve to support these valuable, formative experiences and help our Outings Crew see this program grow to the greatest extent possible, both within and beyond the Middle TN Group. I've thoroughly enjoyed my experiences up to this point with the Middle TN Group and TN Chapter and look forward to sharing a great deal more as a member of the Executive Committee. I am also the Chair of the Water Seminars, MTG Conservation Vice-Chair, and have re-vitalized MTG's efforts at reaching out to other environmental groups and tabling at events.

Charles White
Charles White is a Tennessee native who has always been interested in leaving the world a better place than he found it. His introduction to the movement came from attending a Students for Environmental Action (SEA) meeting at MTSU in 2009. After a series of awesome events in 2010, he decided he was going to dedicate his life to this important work. He attended the 2010 Tennessee Alumni & Students for Sustainable Campuses, or TASSC, Winter Summit where, in addition to learning basic organizing skills, he discovered that people were sitting in trees next to actual endangered species. He attended the 2010 Mountain Justice Summer Camp in Kentucky. There he saw MTR in person, and had an amazing, inspirational experience surrounded by folks who were organizing for a better place! The rest is history. Charles has stayed involved with Mountain Justice, SEA, and TASSC as well as beginning to work with the Sierra Club in TN. His most recent feats are achieving an Anthropology degree from MTSU and organizing the 2013 Fracktivist Conference in Knoxville, TN. Charles states one of his primary goals as coalition building based in solidarity and mutual aid in order to create long-standing, resilient connections between all aspects of the global movement for justice.

Susan Routon
Susan Routon joined the Sierra Club in 2008. In 2009 she participated in a Water Sentinel conference in New Orleans that focused on the Gulf of Mexico’s “Dead Zone” (hypoxia). Water related concerns captivated her attention and she quickly became active in the Club by serving as ExCom member (2009 to present), Treasurer, and Programs Chair of the Chickasaw Group (CKG). She routinely volunteered at events, and planned or assisted in the organizing of all Chapter meetings hosted by the CKG. Susan has been involved in the community for more than 35 years as a military spouse, teacher, and volunteer. After a series of awesome events in 2010, she decided she would go on to dedicate her life to this important work. She attended the 2010 Tennessee Alumni & Students for Sustainable Campuses, or TASSC, Winter Summit where, in addition to learning basic organizing skills, she discovered that people were sitting in trees next to actual endangered species. She attended the 2010 Mountain Justice Summer Camp in Kentucky. There she saw MTR in person, and had an amazing, inspirational experience surrounded by folks who were organizing for a better place! The rest is history. Charles has stayed involved with Mountain Justice, SEA, and TASSC as well as beginning to work with the Sierra Club in TN. His most recent feats are achieving an Anthropology degree from MTSU and organizing the 2013 Fracktivist Conference in Knoxville, TN. Charles states one of his primary goals as coalition building based in solidarity and mutual aid in order to create long-standing, resilient connections between all aspects of the global movement for justice.

Susan currently lives in Atoka and is the mother of four, three of which recently returned home to attend college. Susan also cares for her sweet mother who is battling cancer. While her attentions are drawn to many environmental causes, Susan is deeply concerned about water issues especially the potential for contamination of our drinking water by toxins, carcinogens and radionuclides. Susan is a very independent individual and people take who pride in fairness to all. Susan continues to educate herself in State and National Club procedures.
### WATAUGA GROUP EXCOM BALLOT

**Election Ballot for WATAUGA GROUP Executive Committee Candidates**

Please vote for no more than four (4) members of the Watauga Group Executive Committee, each will serve a two-year term of office beginning in January, 2014. Successful candidates will join returning Watauga ExCom members in guiding our Group’s activities.

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<th>Single Member or First Joint Member</th>
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<td>Mary Gale</td>
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Election Ballots must be received by Rita Cowan no later than Monday Dec 9th.

Mail ballots to: Rita Cowan
WG Election Committee
900 Mining Town Road
Mountain City, TN 37683

Write your Sierra Club membership number on outside envelope with your return address. Note: your number is located on the newsletter mailing label. Place the Tennes-Sierran newspaper ballot in a sealed envelope, within the outside envelope.

Candidate Biographies:

- **Emily Marr Davis**
  Emily has been a Sierra member for several years now, since moving back to Chattanooga after finishing her master's degree in outdoor education. A lover of nature and an outdoor enthusiast since her childhood, she's been an active biker, paddler, backpacker and hiker, most recently serving as our Outings Chair and our Group Chair. A special education teacher and an urban homesteader, she and her husband Phil just became new parents with the birth of their first child, a son.

- **Alice Demetreon**
  Alice and her husband live in Whitwell when they aren't out exploring trails and adventures across Tennessee. Her main environmental concern is Fracking. She was one of the chief organizers of the 2013 Fractivist Conference in Knoxville. She has helped the Cherokee Group become more visible in recent campaigns such as protesting the Tar Sands XL Pipeline and Moving TVA Beyond Coal.

- **Barbara Hurst**
  Barbara is a speech therapist. She's a native of England, and has travelled widely through 50+ countries, lived in 5, and been settled here in Chattanooga for many years. She loves to hike. She's been a Cherokee Group member for many years, and helped reestablish the current Group; she is serving as Group Treasurer. She and her husband Bill thoroughly enjoy hosting the Group's annual Holiday Party!

- **Davis Mounger**
  Davis is a Hamilton County science teacher, currently teaching chemistry. His one son has just left the nest for college. He moved to Chattanooga from the Mississippi Delta, bringing his interest in forestry protection to the Cherokee Forest, where he continues to monitor timber sales and the regulation and protection of our National Forest. He serves as our Conservation Chair, and is very active on the Chapter’s National Forest/Wilderness Committee.

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### CHEROKEE GROUP EXCOM BALLOT

**Election Ballot for CHEROKEE GROUP Executive Committee Candidates**

Please vote below for the election of five (5) members of the Cherokee Group Executive Committee, each having a two-year term of office beginning in January, 2014. They will join our other ExCom Members in guiding our Group’s activities.

Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Saturday, December 14, 2013 to be valid. Only current members may vote. Joint members use the same ballot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cherokee Group (Vote for no more than 4)</th>
<th>Single Member or First Joint Member</th>
<th>Second Joint Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily Marr Davis</td>
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<td>Alice Demetreon</td>
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<td>Barbara Hurst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davis Mounger</td>
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</tbody>
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Submit your Ballot: Only current members may vote. Place your ballot in an envelope, seal, and write “ballot” on the outside. Place that envelope in another envelope, write your Sierra membership number (found on the mailing label of your Tennes-Sierran) in the upper left hand corner with your name and address. If you receive your Tennes-Sierran electronically and need your membership number, you may contact Barbara Kelly at bk1rivers@gmail.com — You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

Envelopes without a Sierra membership number cannot be counted. Ballots must be postmarked by Saturday, December 14, 2014.

Mail ballots to: Barbara Kelly, Elections Committee
3524 Pinellas Lane
Chattanooga, TN 37412

Candidate Biographies:

- **Emily Marr Davis**
  Emily has been a Sierra member for several years now, since moving back to Chattanooga after finishing her master's degree in outdoor education. A lover of nature and an outdoor enthusiast since her childhood, she's been an active biker, paddler, backpacker and hiker, most recently serving as our Outings Chair and our Group Chair. A special education teacher and an urban homesteader, she and her husband Phil just became new parents with the birth of their first child, a son.

- **Alice Demetreon**
  Alice and her husband live in Whitwell when they aren't out exploring trails and adventures across Tennessee. Her main environmental concern is Fracking. She was one of the chief organizers of the 2013 Fractivist Conference in Knoxville. She has helped the Cherokee Group become more visible in recent campaigns such as protesting the Tar Sands XL Pipeline and Moving TVA Beyond Coal.

- **Barbara Hurst**
  Barbara is a speech therapist. She's a native of England, and has travelled widely through 50+ countries, lived in 5, and been settled here in Chattanooga for many years. She loves to hike. She's been a Cherokee Group member for many years, and helped reestablish the current Group; she is serving as Group Treasurer. She and her husband Bill thoroughly enjoy hosting the Group's annual Holiday Party!

- **Davis Mounger**
  Davis is a Hamilton County science teacher, currently teaching chemistry. His one son has just left the nest for college. He moved to Chattanooga from the Mississippi Delta, bringing his interest in forestry protection to the Cherokee Forest, where he continues to monitor timber sales and the regulation and protection of our National Forest. He serves as our Conservation Chair, and is very active on the Chapter’s National Forest/Wilderness Committee.
Candidate Biographies: (listed in random order)

Keven Routon
Keven has been a member of the Chickasaw Group Executive Committee (ExCom) since 2009 and the TN Chapter ExCom since 2010. He served as the Chickasaw Group Conservation Chair in 2010 and Group Chair in 2011. He was elected Chapter Vice Chair in 2012 and is currently serving as Chapter Chair. Keven was selected by the Chapter ExCom to represent the Chapter on the Council of Club Leaders (CCL), which serves as the primary advisory body to the Club’s Board of Directors. He was recently nominated and then selected by the CCL’s ExCom.

Mark Plumlee
Mark helped start the environmental club at White Station during freshman year in the fall of ’91. Mark started the recycle program at the Mason YMCA, and served for 2 years on their board of directors. Mark works as an advertising account representative at the Memphis Flyer, our progressive weekly. Mark currently serves on the Chickasaw Group ExCom, and as our tabling coordinator. He is an avid paddler and outings instigator.

Susan Routon
Susan joined the Sierra Club in 2008. Water-related concerns captured her attention and she quickly became active in the Club by serving as an ExCom member (2009 to present), Treasurer, and Programs Chair of the Chickasaw Group (CKG). She routinely volunteers at events, and assisted in the organizing of all Chapter meetings hosted by the CKG. Susan currently lives in Aroka and is the mother of four, three of which recently returned home to attend college. While her attentions are drawn to many environmental causes, Susan is deeply concerned about water quality and radioactive waste issues, especially the growing potential for contamination of our drinking water by toxics, carcinogens and radionuclides.

Dallas Holland
Dallas Holland grew up in Northwest AL traversing the TN River, Bankhead National Forest and the woods and banks of the Shoals Area. She got her first real taste of activism when she moved to Seattle for a summer at age 21 to canvas for WashPIRG and protest drilling in the Alaskan Wildlife refuge. Dallas studied Biology, Earth Sciences, and Chemistry at the University of North AL. Her conservation and research work have included native plant community restoration and rare plant species protection, butterfly population surveying, nitrogen deposition from air pollution, E. coli genetics work for public health, and more. Dallas moved to Memphis in 2007 to work at the Memphis Botanic Gardens and study GIS. Her current volunteer work focuses on uniting and preserving existing communities through environmental stewardship, self-empowerment, and urban sustainable agriculture. Dallas despises racism, overt-consumerism, and litterbugs. She loves food, freedom, and fresh air.
**HARVEY BROOME GROUP ELECTION BALLOT**

Election Ballot for HARVEY BROOME GROUP Executive Committee Candidates - 2014-2015 term

Please vote for five (5) candidates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvey Broome Group</th>
<th>Single Member or First Joint Member</th>
<th>Second Joint Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allan Miller</td>
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<td>Jim Gray</td>
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<td>Mac Post</td>
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<td>Axel Ringe</td>
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<td>Ron Shrieves</td>
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</table>

Only current members may vote. Please put your ballot in an envelope and seal. Place that in another envelope, on which you write your membership number (found on the mailing label of the *Tennes-Sierran* or your membership card) and your name and return address, and mail by close of business on December 30, 2013. If you receive the *Tennes-Sierran* electronically and need your membership number, you may contact David Reister at dreister@bellsouth.net (put “membership number” in the subject line.) You will need to print off your ballot and follow the instructions above.

Mail by close of business on December 20, 2013 to: David Reister
10366 Rather Road
Knoxville, TN 37933

Candidate Statements:

**Jim Gray**

I grew up in the Adirondack Mountains and have spent most of my life surrounded by the wonders of nature and believe that defending those resources is both an economic and a spiritual necessity. I work as an editor for Springer Publications, specifically as an associate on the “Energy and Energy Analysis” Briefs series. I am a biophysical economist which is something like a resource economist, except that we realize that resources are limited and need to be conserved/preserved. We are not of the mind – like some economists – who think their job is to “put the correct price on resources” so that they can be sold off to the highest bidders. In my rather extensive personal library there are probably at least two or three hundred environmental and resource volumes.

I’ve also spent most of my adult life involved in Democratic politics on both the electoral side and the lobbying side. In fact I was Chair of the Knox County Democratic Party for three years. It’s my firm belief that the only way anything gets done is through either legislation or litigation. I see those two as the way forward for the Sierra Club and its values.

**Allan Miller**

I am a graduate of the University of Tennessee and a resident of Knoxville. I have been a member of Sierra Club since 2000 and I am active in the Harvey Broome Group (HBG). I am co-founder and co-owner of the “Disk Exchange,” now in its 26th year, which sells new and used CD’s and DVD’s. My priorities for HBG include increasing the number of HBG members and improving the financial strength of the HBG. I also am interested in increasing the involvement of our members in HBG activities and environmental issues within the HBG boundaries. I believe that enlarging and activating the membership and strengthening our finances will position the HBG to be more influential in making our views known on environmental and other related issues that are important to us.

**Mac Post**

I became a Sierra Club member while a graduate student in Ecology at the University of Tennessee about 32 years ago, and have recently become a lifetime Sierra Club member. The Harvey Broome Group has been an important voice in East Tennessee for wilderness protection, environmentally sound land-use, environmental protection regulations, and promotion of education and enjoyment of natural resources especially wilderness. I am currently serving as the Program Chair for the Harvey Broome Group.

**Axel Ringe**

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for 17 years, have served on the Harvey Broome Group ExCom since 2001, and have served as Group Chair for many years. My particular passions are water quality, surface coal mining, forests, and biodiversity, and I actively advocate for those issues. I am currently serving as an At-Large Delegate on the TN Chapter ExCom, chair of the Wildlife Legacy Super-Committee, the Water Quality Committee and the Biodiversity committee. The HBG needs to build up its cadre of active, committed members who will undertake the advocacy and organizational challenges that lie before us.

**Ron Shrieves**

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1988 and of the Nature Conservancy since 2000. I have been involved in outings since joining the Club, a member of the HBG Executive Committee and served as HBG Outings Chair for the past seven years. I am used to committee work, and to working in a team setting, and feel that I can contribute to the critical work of the executive committee. I also feel obligated to contribute in a meaningful way to the environmental goals that the Sierra Club has articulated so well.

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Some of the gang from the Tennessee Chapter Fall 2013 Retreat at Pickett State Park. Saturday morning hike with State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath. Photo by Lynette King.
Population Committees

Axel Ringe, Chair

Creek surface mine in Anderson County.

Population Data Sheet for 2013 is now available

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corner of the state, only one month long, and there will be a hunting season, but it will be a 3-
season. We were only partially successful in that hunting and the TWRA's proposal for a hunting

Wildlife Commission's expressed bias in favor of society and others, we reached out to a wide

Working in partnership with TN Ornithological

#

http://www.prb.org/Publications/Datasheets/20

Efforts this past quarter were focused on keep-

and Regional Planning from University of California Irvine, and a B.A. in political science from Boston College. [Note: We were all impressed with and grateful for the work Chris did in organizing the People's Public Hearing on the Gallatin Coal Plant.]

Craig Jervis

Creek, has taken on our outings program (initiating a meet-up page), while also chairing the Nashville Inner City Outings Group. His energy (and wife Marcia's) are infectious, and both programs have grown under his leadership. His knowledge of reptiles and other critters and plants insure that his outings are always interesting and fun. His specialty is water outings (with watermelon breaks), he has motivated several of our outings leaders to obtain water safety training, and you won’t regret paddling the Harpeth with him. He and Marcia have also graciously allowed our group to hold its business/local issues meetings at their restaurant, The Mad Platter.

Penny Brooks

She has served on numerous environmental and education non-profit boards and currently is a member of the Board of Directors of the Clean Air Partnership of Middle Tennessee. She holds a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, a M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from University of California Irvine, and a B.A. in political science from Boston College. [Note: We were all impressed with and grateful for the work Chris did in organizing the People's Public Hearing on the Gallatin Coal Plant.]

Joy Mayfield

I've been active locally 15 years ago when asked to volunteer at the Elysian Fields recycling center. My Sierra Club responsibilities currently include being education chair for MTG, volunteering at the recycling site, serving as Outreach Coordinator and Vice-Chair for Inner City Outings (ICO) and answering the State Sierra Club office phone. I am interested in organic gardening and the slow food movement, sustainable living, expansion of green spaces, reforesting the planet, protecting our forests from logging and getting children outside where they can experience the restorative effects of the natural world. [Note: Joy is also an outings leader who is a master naturalist, and a master historic story-teller on her amazing hikes.]

Chris Lunghino

Working in partnership with TN Ornithological Society and others, we reached out to a wide spectrum of TN citizens to oppose the TN Fish & Wildlife Commission's expressed bias in favor of hunting and the TWRA's proposal for a hunting season. We were only partially successful in that there will be a hunting season, but it will be a 3-year experimental season limited to the lower SE corner of the state, only one month long, and hunting will be suspended during the annual sandhill crane festival.

Population Committee

The Population Reference Bureau's World Population Data Sheet for 2013 is now available for download:


sheet.aspx, or http://tinyurl.com/022a3at

Water Quality Committee

It's been a busy quarter:

MTD

• Submitted comments on the proposed Coal Creek surface mine in Anderson County.

Biodiversity Committee

Efforts this past quarter were focused on keep-

sandhill cranes out of hunter's gunsights. Working in partnership with TN Ornithological

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• Submitted comments on the proposed Coal Creek surface mine in Anderson County.
The public is very welcome at ALL Sierra Club Meetings and Activities! All members traveling across the state should feel free to drop in and attend another Group’s meet- ings. You will find yourself among friends and learning something interesting.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

Strategy Meetings: Nov. 11 and Dec. 9 (Board Meeting) 2nd Monday, 6:30 P.M. Our Strategy Meeting are held downtown, at Second Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of E. 7th Street and Pine, 700 Pine Street - parking is free in their Pine Street lot, across the street from the church, next to the old Blue Cross (orange) building. All members of the Group and interested people are welcome -- this is where and when we plan our actions! Come add your ideas and share your concerns. To place on item on the agenda -- or for current location -- contact Chairperson Sue A. Williams at (901) 274-0524 or 24cmv@juno.com at least five days before the meeting.

TUESDAY, Dec 10, 6:30 P.M. Executive Committee Strategy Meeting. Contact Sue A Williams for location information. A strategy meeting that is open to all members. To place an item on the agenda -- or for current location -- contact Chairperson Sue A. Williams at (901) 274-0524 or 24cmv@juno.com at least five days before the meeting.

FRIDAY, Dec 13, 7 P.M. until 9:30 P.M., HOLIDAY PARTY in place of Dec program meeting, at Burch, Porter & Johnson Law Offices, 130 N Court Ave., Memphis TN. 38103. On street parking is free at meters in the evening and parking lot behind building (enter from Jefferson). Please bring an appetizer or dessert with serving utensil. This party is for members and invited guests only. Beverages provided by Chickasaw Group with a donation. Bring in your ideas for an annual awards event and celebration! For more information contact Sue A. Williams at 901 274-0524.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

November 12, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville: The Role of Zoos in Conservation Presentation by Steve McGaffin, Assistant Curator of Education and Citizen Science Coordinator, Knoxville Zoo Zoos have existed for millennia, but their purpose has changed. We’ll explore the mission and conservation programs of modern zoos and where we may be heading in the future. Steve McGaffin is the Assistant Curator of Education and Citizen Science Coordinator. He has worked in outdoor/environmental education for over 24 years and has been at Knoxville Zoo for 18 years.

December 10, 7:00 P.M., Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville: HBG Holiday Photographic Show. Everyone is invited for an evening of fun, food, and sharing. Bring a USB flash drive with some pictures from your favorite trips of the year to share. For more information contact Mac Post mpost3116@aol.com

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Thursday, November 14, 7:00 P.M. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center The word “gala- pagos” means “saddles” in Spanish, and the tortoises in some of the islands in the Galapagos have shells that reminded early explorers of saddles. In May of this year, Bill Terry, Adelle Wood and Meg Robertson traveled on a 48-passenger National Geographic expedition to the Galapagos and saw these tortoises, domed tortoises, penguins, sea lions (in abundance!), blue-footed and red-footed boobies, fur seals, frigate birds, green sea turtles, waved albatrosses and much more as they hiked, snorkeled, and kayaked on and around several of the islands. Each expedition to the Galapagos, which is an Ecuadorian national park, must include naturalist guides who accompany small groups to each island and on each activity. The naturalists live in the Galapagos and are a wealth of knowledge about the natural history, geology, and unique animals of the islands, and many are photography instructors as well.

We invite you to a program by Bill, who will show some of his slides and some of Meg’s, in an armchair adventure cruise.

Everyone is welcome at this local issues and business meeting. Meetings are usually held at the Mad Platter Restaurant, 1739 Ninth Ave. North, Nashville 37208 (near the Nashville Farmer’s Market), but there may be times we meet elsewhere. If you are not a regular attendee, please contact Betsy at 668-1977 or garberb@hotmail.com. Come a bit early because we start the meeting at 6:30. The Mad Platter is not open on Tuesday evenings, so be sure to eat before you come or bring something with you. We look forward to seeing you.

December 17, 6:30 P.M. Please note the venue and the change from second to third Tuesday Everyone is welcome to this local issues and business meeting which will be held at the Sierra Club office, 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive, Nashville 37211 (near I-24 and Harding place). Use the door to the left of the front doors. Call Betsy at 668-1977 to let her know that you are coming, and to get in if the door is locked. Come a bit early because we start the meeting at 6:30. We look forward to seeing you.

WATAUGA GROUP (Northeastern TN)

PROGRAM MEETINGS: Every second Tuesday at 7 P.M. Please contact Gloria Griffith at gla4797@earthlink.net or 423-727-4797 for more information.

To subscribe to the Tennessee News Listserv, email the following text to LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG:

SUBSCRIBE TENNESSEE-NEWS YourFirstName YourLastName

(Or course, substituting your actual first and last name in the places indicated.)
CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)
Emily Marr Davis is our Outings Chair, and point-person for outings information for our Group. Our activities are always open to the public and to members of the Club from across our state! Outings are planned to take in the interests and skills level of the participants. For more information, contact Emily at emily.marr.davis@gmail.com. Please check our Facebook page, Cherokee Sierra, for the latest on our outings.

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)
10 Nov (Sat). Canoe/Kayak Float, French Broad River. This go-with-the-current float covers 15 miles from just below Douglas Dam to the Seven Islands public access point on the French Broad. Though far from pristine, this river does have some interesting sights and a bit of wildlife (and some not-so-wild life). It’s an interesting case study in the ecology of a “recovering” river. There may be some shoal water, but no whitewater. Basic canoe/kayak skills are required. Adverse wind conditions are another possible “hazard.” Sorry but we cannot provide boats, so you will have to contact a local outfitter and make your own arrangements for boats, paddles, and pfds. One-way drive: 40 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

16 Nov (Sat). Day Hike, Honey Creek, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. This is a rather difficult 5.6 mile loop trail. Originally, it was one of the ten Bowater Pocket Wilderness Areas and is now one of two state natural areas located within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The trail is very rugged and requires crossing a number of small creeks, climbing a series of ladders up and down the bluff, scrambling through boulders, and hiking up the Honey Creek drainage. The trail includes a number of waterfalls, a spectacular rockhouse, and one of the best views from an overlook 250 feet above the South Fork of the Cumberland River. Quite simply it is one of the best trails on the Cumberland Plateau. The hike is difficult and requires about 5 to 7 hours to complete depending on how much time is spent enjoying the trail. Rated moderate to difficult. The driving distance is about 75 miles from West Knoxville. Preregister with BJ and Bob Perllack: perllack@aol.com; 229-5027.

7 Dec (Sat). Dayhike, White Rocks and Sand Cave, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Two outstanding natural rock formations await hikers in the north end of this Park: White Rocks and the Sand Cave. We’ll take a loop route that takes us to the fabulous overlook at White Rocks, where we’ll have great vistas into both Kentucky and Virginia. We then follow the Ridge trail to a side trail into Sand Cave, a huge rock house with a sandy floor, where we’ll relax and have lunch. The return to our vehicles will be via the Ewing Trail. Distance about 8.5 miles, rated moderate. One-way drive: 75 miles. Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 922-3518 or ronaldshrieves@comcast.net (e-mail preferred).

14 Dec (Sat). Take-a-Hike, Biodiversity tour (Old-Growth Cove Hardwood), Albright Grove, GSMNP. Not many low elevation cove hardwood forests remain. Albright Grove is a special place where tulip poplars, Frazier magnolias, silverbells and maples have grown into giants. For the hike to this unique place we will use the Maddron Bald Trail to Albright Grove Loop trail and then return. For those that are interested we will study tree indentification in winter. Total distance is 6.9 miles and rated moderate. One-way drive: 60 miles. Preregister with Mac Post at 865-806-0980 or mpost3116@aol.com (e-mail preferred).

Advance Notice
Chapter Retreat January 24-26 @ Cedars of Lebanon State Park

Get the date on your calendars now for our Winter Retreat at Cedars of Lebanon, just north of Murfreesboro, TN.

Along with training to boost activism in our Groups, there will be time to relax close to nature and in the company of good friends, old and new. The schedule of activities is in development, and will be posted in the January 2014 Tenness-Sierran. The Chapter ExCom will hold its meeting on Sunday morning.

Eight miles of hiking trails meander through the “cedar” forests and glades; fox, deer, squirrel, rabbits and turkey are frequently spotted along the trails. The terrain is Karst topography, characterized by sinkholes, springs, caves, disappearing springs and underground drainage. The State Park is 900 acres, while the State Forest is 8,100 acres. The sections of the park built by the W.P.A. recently received national recognition when they were added to the National Register of Historic places, and a section of the Forest with its cedar glades has been designated as a federally protected natural area.

Prices are low, with bunk house accommodations, at the Group Lodge. Early bird fees, which cover 2 breakfasts, Saturday dinner and lodging are just $40/person. However there’s a 1/2 off discount if it is your first time, and children 15 and under are free. Scholarships are also available.

For advanced notice of the activities, contact Barbara Hurst, and you may also register with her: barbaraduckhurst@hotmail.com. Payment will be accepted when you check in at the Group Lodge. For registration after January 17, the fee goes up to $50/person. The Cherokee Group, Chattanooga, is hosting the event.

Outings
Hike to Celebrate the Knoxville Urban Wilderness

By Mac Post, Ronald Shrieves, and Axel Ringe

On National Public Lands Day, September 28, the Harvey Broome Group in partnership with the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club and the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club led a group of 25 enthusiastic hikers on a 7-mile trek through a section of the Knoxville Urban Wilderness. Urban wilderness might seem like an oxymoron but many cities are rediscovering the wildlands that still remain within their borders and preserving significant pieces for recreational activities including hiking, mountain biking, paddling, bird watching, nature photography, and other non-consumptive activities as well as for watershed protection and associated environmental benefits of clean water, air, and wildlife diversity.

Knoxville’s South Urban Loop is a 12.5-mile system of connected trails forming a large loop with numerous spur trails totaling over 40 miles of trails. The Loop is located entirely within the city limits of Knoxville and was made possible by a combination of city-owned properties and conservation easements on privately owned properties. The Loop is the product of collaboration among Legacy Parks Foundation, private donors, city and county agencies, and non-profit groups including the Harvey Broome Group, but most importantly the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club whose members built nearly all the trails.

The planned Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) James White Parkway Extension project would have bisected this loop in 2 places and wiped out several of the connecting trails. In a stunning turn of events, a very significant addition to the Wilderness in the form of a 100-acre tract donated by the Wood family and located directly in the path of the proposed highway, resulted in Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero requesting that the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization drop the James White Parkway Extension from its list of priorities. As a consequence TDOT announced that work on the Project will cease.

The Loop strings together a necklace of properties, some of which are ecological “gems” with maturing second-growth hardwood forests. Other properties are in various stages of transition, with a mixture of second- or third-growth forests vying with exotic and invasive plant species, and a few of which are in very early stages of recovery from decades of abuses. The contrasts among these elements of the Loop provide a lesson on the caring for our remaining urban “wilderness” spaces, and hiking this loop will make conservationists of many folks who had not given such wildland preservation much thought.

Tennessee Draws the Line

by Christopher Anderson and Lynette King

On September 21st, over 200 Draw the Line events took place across the country to protest the Tar Sands and Keystone XL during a National Day of Action. There were 3 events held in TN. The Middle TN Group demonstrated in Nashville with over 70 attendees, while the Cherokee Group braved the rain in Chattanooga. At UTK, Students Promoting Environmental Action in Knoxville (SPEAK), held a rally at the school, where they led a successful fossil fuel divestment campaign last year.
DEAR Mr. Winters:

I am writing on behalf of the Tennessee Clean Water Network, Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, National Parks Conservation Association, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Southern Environmental Law Center, and Statewide Organizing for Community Empowerment (collectively, the “Commenters”) to express our concerns about the pending renewal of SMCRA Permit 3189 for the Turner Surface Mine and our objections to the possibility of extending mining operations below the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area.

II. Mining Under the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area

Commenters are very concerned that Crossville Coal has filed a notice of intent to explore coal resources, has obtained permission from the State to do so, and has already conducted some exploration to determine the extent of reserves of metallurgical coal below the Catoosa WMA. Based on its public statements, Crossville Coal proposes to extract this metallurgical grade coal from the Sewanee seam, which lies within the Whittow shale.

Commenters oppose any proposal to mine coal beneath the Catoosa WMA. Exploitation of natural resources is not an appropriate use of our public lands, particularly those that have been set aside for the protection of wildlife. The leasing of mineral rights on state land is a new policy that would set a dangerous precedent for other lands statewide. Moreover, such uses are also unwarranted here given the close proximity of the Obed WSR, which provides critical habitat for the threatened spotfin chub and the endangered purple bean mussel.

Moreover, because proper reclamation is likely to cost substantially more than originally anticipated, OSM should increase the amount of the reclamation bond. 30 U.S.C. § 1259(e) (“The amount of the bond or deposit required and the terms of each acceptance of the applicant’s bond shall be adjusted by the regulatory authority from time to time ... where the cost of future reclamation changes.”) (emphasis added).

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and thank you for holding the informal conference today. We request that OSM provide notice of any further permit applications or expansions of mining operations at this mine via electronic mail to each of the undersigned. Please do not hesitate to call me at 865-522-7007x102 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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