

Tuck Tales



<http://www.smokyonthefly.com/tucktu/>



December 2004

Tuckaseige Chapter #373 of Trout Unlimited

Vol. 6 No. 12

Next Meeting

The Tuckaseige Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its next regular monthly membership meeting on Tuesday, December 7, at 6:30 PM at the United Carolina Community Bank located on highway 107 south in Sylva. The meeting room is at the rear of the building.

Members and other concerned persons are cordially invited to attend our next meeting. The Tuckaseige Chapter is made up of members from Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties.

Tuck Tales is published twelve times per year by Tuckaseige Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a nonprofit organization, for its members and supporters.

Edited by Craig Forrest.

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The Chapter has a web presence at:

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Land Added To Smokies

Smokies Manager's Applaud ALCOA/Park Land Exchange Legislation

Contact

Bob Miller, (865) 436-1207

Great Smoky Mountains National Park managers are celebrating the passage of recent federal legislation that will add an additional 86 acres to the half million acre park. The "Tapoco Project Relicensing Act of 2004", which was signed by President Bush on October 18 will also resolve a number of legal and enforcement problems for the park and its hydro-power generating neighbor, Tapoco, a subsidiary of ALCOA.

Smokies Superintendent, Dale A. Ditmanson, says that the legislation clears the way for a land exchange which will transfer about 100 acres of park land that has been submerged since the 1950's under Lake Chilhowee, for 186 acres of dry land that lies between the main body of the Smokies and U.S. 129. The actual change of ownership will occur when on-going hazardous material surveys is finished and deeds are executed to reflect the changes.

"For over 20 miles Highway 129 marks our western boundary." Ditmanson said, "But for the three miles along this 186 acre slice of land the boundary veers away from the road and follows the power line, creating boundary patrol problems in that stretch, and making the road less effective as a fire control line or as a barrier to the spread of non-native plants into the park."

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Passage of the law also provides the legal authority to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to issue a new license to allow Tapoco to continue operating the Chilhowee Dam and powerhouse for 30 to 50 more years. Although the Chilhowee Dam was built with full cooperation of the National Park Service in the 1950's, FERC had not yet been created and when it was formed, FERC was not given the authority to license projects that flood lands within a national park.

Under an agreement signed in May between ALCOA, the National Park Service and a variety of other state and federal agencies, and a group of conservation organizations, the legislation triggers a series of other conservation and recreational benefits. In the agreement ALCOA will set up permanent and temporary conservation easements that will establish a wildland bridge between the half million-acre Smokies and over 300,000 acres of Cherokee National Forest located just across the Little Tennessee River from the Park.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will take over management of approximately 5,000 – 6,000 acres as a permanent conservation easement. Of this acreage, the National Park Service has the option to purchase in fee about 400 acres between the west side of U.S. 129 and Lake Chilhowee commonly known as “the bulge”. The U.S Forest Service will be allowed to buy the remaining acreage which is located between the west side of the lake and its existing eastern boundary.

The agreement also sets up an additional 4,000 “plus” acres as a term conservation easement for the 30 – 50 year life of Tapoco's new permit. ALCOA has also agreed to provide a total \$100,000 per year to the National Park Service, the Forest Service or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct habitat preservation/mitigation projects.

Ditmanson says the park would work with the other two agencies to develop projects such as reducing the occurrence of non-native species like kudzu and princess tree and to improve nesting habitat for the endangered red cockaded woodpecker.

“Taken in total,” Ditmanson said, “We could not be happier with the outcome of what could have been a problem for the park as well as for the industrial base of East Tennessee. We are extremely appreciative of ALCOA, our sister agencies, conservation groups and to Senator Alexander and Representative Duncan for helping bring this about.”



The Hatch Notice will return
in March

Park/Parkway Closures

Roads, Trails, Campgrounds, and Picnic Areas - GSMNP

November 24, 2004

Road and facility openings/closings may change throughout the day. For **updated** road and weather information please call **(865) 436-1200**. Once you hear a voice, dial extension 631 for road information or extension 630 for a weather forecast. You may wish to write this number down when traveling to the area for handy reference for road and weather updates.

Web Site:

<http://www.nps.gov/grsm/index.htm>



Blue Ridge Parkway Road and Facility Openings/Closures

November 1, 2004

Contact

Blue Ridge Parkway, 828-298-0398

Web Site:

<http://www.nps.gov/blri/pphtml/news.html>



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Special thanks to Chapter
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having his company
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