

TUCK TALES

North Shore Road Special Project

The Tuckaseegee chapter's most ambitious project to date is underway as of the printing of this month's newsletter. Project chairman Tom Massie reports that almost 4,000 North Shore Road issue comment cards have been mailed to every North Carolina Trout Unlimited member presently on NCTU State Council's roster.

The cards are in 2 parts, perforated and with postage paid on the return. All a TU member has to do is sign the card, indicate his/her chapter and drop it in the mail. The comment cards state:

I am a member of Trout Unlimited and opposed to any environmental damage from the proposed North Shore Road upon the coldwater fisheries of Chambers, Eagle, Forney and Hazel Creeks within GSMNP. Any negative impacts to these fisheries is unacceptable to me.

Consequently, I support the Monetary Settlement as the only

environmentally safe, fiscally responsible and legally binding alternative to finally resolve this long-standing issue.

This project was initiated last year with a mailing of 45 or so comment cards to each chapter president across the state requesting that they distribute the cards to their members for signing and mailing. After that effort TCTU approached NCTU State Council with a request for funding assistance to do an *individual* mailing to TU members across the state for this final comment period. State Council president Tim Wilhelm went to bat for us and secured the funding from State Council along with contributions from several individual chapters.

President Wilhelm was in Bryson City in early February to represent TU at a press conference regarding the North Shore Road. TCTU president Delos Monteith spoke for both the Tuckaseegee chapter and State Council at the

Public Hearing conducted by the Park Service expressing TU's desire to see the Monetary Settlement chosen as the preferred alternative.

Chairman Massie thanks all TU members, chapters and officers of State Council for their help in seeing this project to completion. He also particularly thanks fellow chapter members Steve Gray and Steve Allen for their assistance with this project.



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Next Meeting

The Tuckaseegee Chapter of trout Unlimited will hold its next regular monthly membership meeting on Tuesday, March 7, at 6:30 PM at the United Community Bank located on Highway 107 south in Sylva. The meeting room is at the rear of the building.

The Tuckaseegee Chapter is made up of members from Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties.

President's FY 2007 Budget Proposal for the Forest Service - Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act Extension

Amendment to Extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act

The President's FY 2007 Budget for the Forest Service includes a legislative proposal that would amend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to allow payments under the Act to continue for an additional five years. This proposal underscores the President's commitment to states and counties which have been impacted by the ongoing reduction in receipts primarily due to lower timber harvest levels on Federal lands.



To provide a funding basis for an extension of the Secure Rural Schools Act, the President's proposal authorizes the sale of certain parcels of National Forest System Lands. Lands that are potentially eligible for this proposal have been identified.

The extension of the Secure Rural Schools Act would provide affected states and counties a short-term safety net of payments which will be adjusted downward overtime and eventu-

ally phased out.

A Federal Register notice requesting comments on the lands identified as potentially eligible for sale will be published by the end of February. Also published will be a detailed set of maps.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Question: *How Can I comment on this proposal?*

Response: A Federal Register notice requesting comments on the lands identified as potentially eligible for sale will be published by the end of February. Once published, a 30-day comment period will provide an opportunity for anyone who wishes to provide input on the proposed authorization to sell certain land

parcels or to comment on specific lands identified as eligible for conveyance. Comments will be accepted either by mail, fax, or e-mail. Detailed information about how to submit remarks will be included in the Federal Register notice (which will be available to be accessed through this website). All comments will be read and fully considered as the process goes forward.

Question: *If this proposal were*

to be enacted how would the land sales occur?

Response: Since the Forest Service has very limited authority to sell parcels of National Forest System land (Small Tracts Act, Townsite Act, Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act), Congress would have to pass, and the President would have to sign, legislation to enact an authority for general land conveyances of this nature.

Question: *Where can I find a map of the land parcels?*

Answer: Maps showing the locations of the land parcels will be available on the website listing the potentially eligible land parcels during the 30 day comment period after the proposal is published in the Federal Register.

Question: *What criteria were used to select lands that are potentially eligible for this proposal?*

Answer: These parcels meet criteria identified in existing Forest Land Management plans as potentially suitable for conveyance. Many of these lands are isolated from other contiguous National Forest System lands, and because of their location, size or configuration are not efficient to manage as a component of the National Forest system. Isolated tracts can be expensive to manage because of boundary management and encroachment resolution costs.

Chapter News & Events

Well, we finally got a decent 6 inch snow in mid-February. It was hard to think about fishing but we all should have been because March promises to start the fishing season in earnest. I hope you've all gone through your tackle to take inventory of what flies you have remaining and what sort of shape lines, leaders, rods and reels are in. There's still time to get ready so make haste. Make sure you have plenty oh Prince Nymphs, Copper Johns, Beadhead Pheasant Tails and Hare's Ears ready. You'll want to have some tiny Blue Wing Olives as well.

While you're going through all of your fishing gear, check to see if you have anything to donate to the chapter's booth at the Arts Council Yard Sale coming up March 25th. Don't forget to sell your raffle tickets! Those who

can tie flies should try and bring some to the March meeting to sell at the Yard Sale. Thanks to Dick and Milt for working so hard to make this fund-raiser a success!



Also, March 25th will be Sparkle Day in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. TCTU has participated in this clean-up event for the past several years. We clean the roadside along 441 from the Oconaluftee Ranger Station to about Beech Flats. You can join Jerry Dewese if you want and clean up higher if the

snow's not too deep. Right Jerry?

April 29th will be the annual Ducks on the Tuck event. Bring your waders and plan to help wrangle some ducks again this year. Details will follow later.

TU's Rivercourse Summer Camp will be June 18 - 23 this summer. Our own Giff Hampton will be serving as the Rivercourse treasurer this year.

Mike Herman will again chair the Kid's Fishing Day event in June. He'll be getting the info to us as soon as it's available.

TCTU is planning to have a cookout at East Laporte Park for the May meeting. This will be a family event so plan to bring the kids and their fishing poles.

Tuck Tales is published six times per year by Tuckaseegee Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a nonprofit organization, for its members and supporters. Edited by Craig Forrest. Please address comments to *Tuck Tales*, P. O. Box 3196, Cullowhee, NC 28723
E-mail: craigforrest@sleepyhollowstudio.com
The Tuckaseegee Chapter has a web presence at: <http://www.smokyonthefly.com/tucktu/>

The March 7th Meeting will offer a program by Ken Simonds who also spoke at our January meeting.

Ken has some more information for us on bamboo fly rods along with other topics.

DON'T MISS IT!!!!

 **United**
Community Banks

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 **THE SYLVA HERALD**
A PUBLICATION OF THE SYLVA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Special thanks to Chapter Member Steve Gray for having his company print and fold our newsletter!

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NEWSLETTER OF THE TUCKASEIGEE CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED
Serving Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties