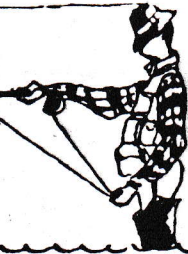


TIGHT LINES



OFFICIAL MOUTHPIECE OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TU

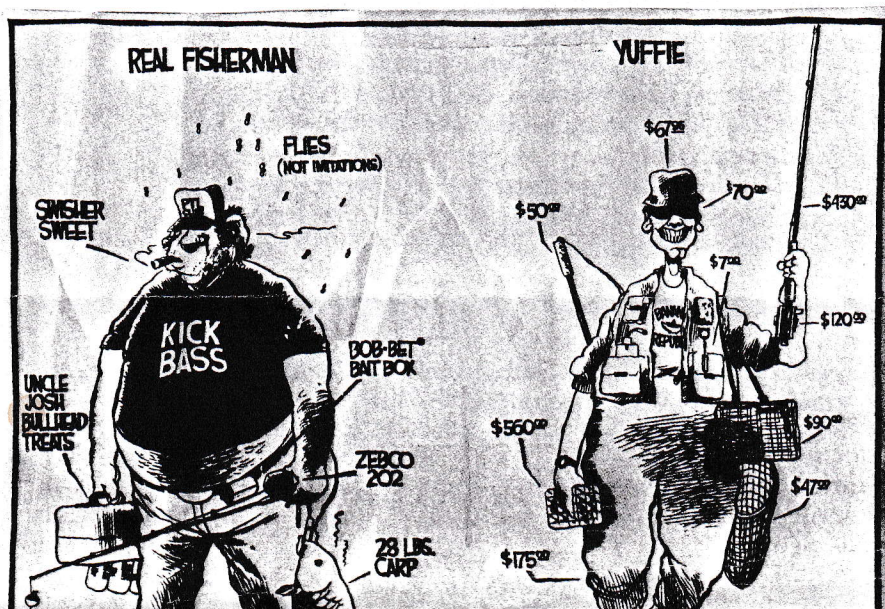
JUNE 1992

Our June meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 16th at the Rabun County Library in Clayton, GA. Social hour begins at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting at 7:00. The Program will be unusual - a SWAP MEET! So, bring some flies; an extra hunting knife; an old reel or rod; surplus camping gear - just anything you think you might exchange for something else. This will be fun if you will just get into it!

Hope noone showed up at the library in May as there was no meeting - not even a newsletter. Hopefully you got yourself out to the river or your favorite stream to survey conditions. Our April meeting was held on the banks of Ridley/Hedden and preceded the work project on Saturday. Eighteen showed up for the meeting and twenty were on hand for the work project. Several structures were worked on and cover logs placed on Hedden while another crew worked on silt fences on strategic spots along Burrells Ford Road. All in all, it was a good outing and some much needed work was done. Of course it rained - doesn't it always?

Our membership now stands at 96, with five new members since the last report. Welcome to the Rabun Chapter Rick Hines of Toledo, Ohio (wow!); Walt McBride of Atlanta; Roger Sheppard of Toccoa; Ronald Smith of Gainesville and Richard Webb of Eastanalle. We're glad to have you aboard. The following were so afraid they would miss out on something, they have renewed - David Gomez, Pat Hopton, John Range, George Reynolds, Blaine Tarnecki and Jim Nixon.

GOING, GOING (but not gone, yet) David Chastain, Fredrick Hooper, Rodney Kilby, Howard Page, Bob Singleton, Howard Thompson, Henry Williamson. Carl Fredricks, Jim Darnell, Nell Jones, Donald MacLeod, Catherine Ritch; John Singleton, James Vandiver, Jeff Durniak and Mort Meadors. Come on, we need you!



Since the camp out/work Project, in addition to fishing we have:

Helped with the Black Rock SP Kids Fishing Day pm May 2nd and the Nancytown Kids Fishing Day. As the attached articles will show, there were lots of happy kids at both outings. Pat Hopton and Jim Harris did a great job getting TUers out and the DNR and USFS personnel sponsored two really successful events. At Nancytown, Walt and I spotted a lone trout in one of the small streams. On the bank was a small lad and when we pointed out the fish and suggested he get his gear he said he didn't have any and would catch it by hand. I hastily advised him the chances of that were somewhere between nil and zero. Half hour later we passed the same spot just in time to see the kid finally scoop the prize up with his bare hands. As my Dad use to say, "Can't never Could!"

Jim Kidd and Pat Hopton collected the cards from the Survey Boxes during the month of April; and, I'm assured they didn't even take time to wet a line.

AND, JUST WHEN YOU WERE THINKING WE MIGHT BE THROUGH FOR THE SUMMER:

June	Service Creel Survey Boxes	Burrell & Landreth
June (no date)	Moccasin Creek SP Kids Fishing Day	Kyle Burrell
June 8,9,10	West Fork Electrofishing	Monte Seehorn
Mon June 8	Georgia Council Meeting Buckhead	
Sat July 11	Kids Fishing Day Tallulah River	Frankie Green
Tues July 21	Regular Meeting	Rabun County Library

TIPS FOR RELEASING TROUT

To ensure survival, a trout must be handled properly during landing and release. The following techniques are recommended by most fish biologists:

1. Don't play trout to exhaustion. Land and release them as quickly as possible. This improves their chances for surviving the strain of being hooked and fought.
2. Releasing trout in an eddy or a mild current makes them easier to handle. Not having to contend with fast water also speeds their recovery once they are freed.
3. If possible, leave trout in water during the entire release procedure in order to limit oxygen depletion.
4. Wet your hands before touching trout to avoid disturbing the delicate mucus that protects their skin from fungus.
5. Handle them gently. Excessive squeezing can burst a trout's internal air sac, which is lethal.
6. Using a hemostat for hook extraction is less clumsy than freeing it with your fingers. This also minimizes handling.
7. Once the fly is removed, gently cradle the trout in the water with its head facing upstream until it gains equilibrium and tries to twitch free. To ensure the fish is fully revived, continue to support it beyond its first feeble efforts to escape.
8. Trout that are bleeding freely are not likely to survive and should be killed for the table.

Angling for wild trout should be more than just a body count at the end of the day.

April 17, 1992

RABUN TU IS
ALSO A COSIGNER
OF THIS

M. F. Meadors Jr.
Rt. 1 Box 685
Rabun Gap
Georgia 30568

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Department of Natural Resources
Floyd Towers East
205 Butler Street SE
Atlanta
Georgia 30334

Dear Sirs:

A meeting was held on April 9, 1992 here in Clayton, Georgia to discuss the obvious and previously documented pollution of a prominent waterway in Rabun County, Stekoa Creek. The watershed involved includes Mountain City, Georgia, Clayton, Georgia, and ending in confluence with the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River, a resource of national pride and certainly a treasure here in Georgia. Present at the meeting were representatives from various conservation groups, the U. S. Forest Service, Georgia State Game and Fish, Soil and Conservation Service, county government officials and concerned citizens.

The consensus, which includes professional scientific opinion, is that an unacceptable level of pollution exists in Stekoa Creek involving heavy siltation, high turbidity (photo enclosed), garbage and sewage creating fecal coliform readings as high as 35,000. Clearly this excess of pollution endangers human health as well as precluding recreational opportunities.

Attached is a synopsis of the resulting input/information of our meeting which focuses on defining pollution types, locating pollution sources and organizing an effective remedy. Everyone so far involved agrees that this problem will not be resolved overnight and there is a serious need to get started now.

The purpose of this letter is not only to inform your agency of our situation and needs, but also to request your help and advice, perhaps even leadership, to get this project underway. Thus far the U. S. Forest Service has been graciously instrumental as interim leader and organizer of this effort, but because of the riparian circumstances (less than twenty-five percent of the Stekoa Creek watershed involves USFS land) we are encouraged to find a more appropriate agency to assume coordination and leadership.

We hope you will respond to this appeal accordingly, and we are looking forward to your reply.

Respectfully,

M.F. Meadors Jr.
M. F. Meadors Jr.,
Friends of the Mountains

Enclosures

Dave Perrin
Dave Perrin
Chattooga River Outfitters

Audrey Mellius
Audrey Mellius
Friends of the Mountains

David W. Jensen, District Ranger
Tallulah Ranger District
Chattahoochee-Oconee NF

To: Chapter Presidents & Council Representatives

From: Bobby Bell

RE: Council Meeting

Bobby J. Bell Chairman
108 Sycamore Street
Rome, Georgia 30165
404/234-5310 H 234-8006 W

The summer council meeting will be June 8th, at 7:00pm, at Towers Place in Buckhead.

The main focus of this meeting will be to set-up committees for the council. We need as many members as possible to show up.

We also would like the Preservation 2000 committee members to come prepared to make sight recommendations, we will have nomination forms at the meeting. You should come with as much information on the property as you can find such as: size, location, owner, if it's for sale, what makes it a candidate for P-2000, estimated cost per acre, etc. Anyone knowing of a good tract of land is encouraged to submit it, even if your not a member of the committee.

Anyone wishing to add something to the agenda for this meeting should contact me by June 3rd. And if you have questions feel free to call.

CALL TOM KANDRETH OR BOBBY BELL w/ NOMINATIONS.

STEKOA CREEK MEETING: April 9, 1992

PROBLEM

1. Muddy water flowing from Creek into River
2. What kind of pollution is in Creek? How does it affect the Chattooga River?
 - a. Periodic elevated counts of fecal coliform above 200, the level of concern for swimming. Has been up to 35,000.
 - b. Trash and garbage
 - c. Effectiveness of land use regulations

DESIRED OBJECTIVES

1. Water clarity compared to main body of River.
2. Problem identified and corrected so stream is safe for swimming.
3. Managed development to minimize impact on Creek; enhance recreational value.
4. An increased public awareness of effects of land use on water quality.
5. Identify possible funding sources for study and fix.
6. Find people willing and able to work on the study.
7. Collect existing data and conduct studies to determine the sources of pollution.
8. Pull together laws and regulation of different agencies that govern pollution control.
9. Keep the process at the lowest governmental level.
10. Form a local agency (Citizen's Group, Government, etc.) to regulate and enforce water quality standards.

WHO SHOULD GET INVOLVED

1. Soil and Conservation Service
2. Local Governments and agencies
 - a. Rabun County Chamber of Commerce
 - b. Rabun Beautiful, Inc.
 - c. County Commission
 - d. Townships affected
3. Private Organizations
 - a. Chattooga River Outfitters
 - b. Friends of the Mountains
 - c. Local landowners affected by the Creek
 - d. Trout Unlimited, Rabun County Chapter
 - e. Rabun County Home Builders Association

EXCELLENT
SUGGESTION, DO
YOU AGREE?

United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests 112 Andrew Pickens Circle Mountain Rest, SC 29664 (803) 638-9568

Reply To: 2600/1950

Date: May 11, 1992

Dear Friends,

The Andrew Pickens Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest provides some of the best trout fishing in the state. At present, there are no barrier-free opportunities available for anglers with disabilities to fish area streams. A Forest Service team recently met and came up with a proposal to provide barrier-free access on the district. We are interested in your ideas and/or opinions on the project.

The Chattooga Picnic Area adjacent to the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery, located off Highway 107 approximately 20 miles north of Walhalla, was selected as a potential site for developing barrier-free fishing access. There is currently a suitable site located adjacent to the picnic area across from the outflow pipe from the hatchery which is being utilized for fishing. Cross-ties were placed in the bank several years ago to control erosion and to provide angler access to the stream. At present, the bank is eroded in this area due to the use by anglers and other visitors to the site. The cross-ties themselves are not very safe as the access provided needs repair.

The proposed project would involve improving this existing site to control the bank erosion while providing barrier-free fishing access. The existing trail leading from the parking lot would be upgraded in two ways to make it more accessible to visitors with disabilities. The first 100 feet of pathway leading from the parking lot would be upgraded by placing a boardwalk over the top of the existing trail to the point where the path becomes more level. Barrier-free access to the hatchery would be provided through the parking lot to the main gate of the hatchery. The remaining 200 feet of existing trail would be paved from the boardwalk to the fishing access area. The access itself would consist of a small wooden structure which would be accessible for up to two wheelchairs. The area would be open to anyone wishing to fish, not just anglers needing barrier-free access. The structure would be designed so as to cause little or no disturbance from construction. Preferably, its foundations would be cantilevered into the upper portion of the bank rather than into the lower portion near the stream.

No increased fish stocking in the stream to accommodate anglers using this facility is planned. No increase in fishing use because of this project is anticipated. This project will be designed to control erosion which is impacting the stream while at the same time providing an opportunity for anglers with physical disabilities.

If you would like more information or would like to arrange a visit to the site, contact Greg Borjesson or Kelly Russell at 803-638-9568. Please have your comments to us by June 10, 1992.


HORACE JARRETT
District Ranger

Monte's Article From
 MAY 1992 ISSUE
 OF GEORGIA SPORTSMAN

Are

Georgia's Trout Streams At Risk?

Our new-found zeal to protect and preserve trees in the Chattahoochee National Forest may be jeopardizing the health of our trout streams and the wildlife that call the woods home. Here's a look at the controversy.

by Monte Seehorn

this is in wilderness, scenic area, and other non-harvest designed locations. Harvesting in the remainder must be for reasons other than timber purposes, such as wildlife habitat improvement. Opportunities for these type cuts are limited, leaving the majority of even these stands uncut.

Last, but probably of most importance, are unjustified allegations and misrepresentations concerning effects of clear-cutting, presented through public media, by individuals and groups, in the name of environmental protection.

The groups such as the Wilderness Society and Sierra Club, with primary interests in preservation rather than management, have been extremely effective in utilizing news media to reach the concerned public. Bland statements are made concerning detrimental effects of clearcutting on fish and wildlife resources, with little or no scientific foundation to back them.

Once presented in the media, whether true or not, these statements became "fact" to eager readers lacking the training to discern fact from fiction.

For the above reasons, forest managers are needlessly losing a valuable tool for managing and protecting timber resources, but wildlife and fishery resources as well.

You're probably saying to yourself at this point, "What's this idiot talking about? How can he see anything good in something as ugly and destructive as clearcutting?" It's simply a matter of perspective. If your goal is to foster a minimum visual impact, natural appearance with partial cutting techniques will likely best meet the

(Continued)

objective. If, however, the goal is to produce maximum yields of high quality timber at least cost, clearcutting should, in many cases, be the logical choice. If optimum populations of wildlife such as deer, turkey, ruffed grouse, quail and many associated early successional non-game species is the goal, clearcutting, modified by size limitations and other restrictions, will likely provide best response when compared to partial timber-harvest methods.

If the goal is to minimize the impacts of timber-harvesting activities upon water quality and aquatic resources, again clearcutting, with certain restrictions, offers distinct advantages when compared to partial cutting methods.

The primary reason is less soil erosion into stream courses due to fewer road miles of road necessary to harvest the timber. To fully understand the above statement, you must accept one scientific premise or finding. Erosion and sediment loss from timber sales on eastern forest has nothing to do with the cutting or felling of trees and other vegetation.

Research from the world-renowned Coweeta Hydrologic Research Laboratory near Franklin, North Carolina, and from other research laboratories, verifies this statement. The sediment problem stems from the roads and log landings necessary to transport the logs out of the sale area.

Although I touch briefly upon other aspects of timber harvesting in this article, the primary purpose here is to clarify relative impacts of the various timber-harvesting methods upon aquatic resources, especially in mountain forests. Let's back up at this point and address major potential impacts cited by detractors.

Removal of streamside vegetation. Complete removal of shade from extreme reaches can elevate water temperature. In general, and especially on southern trout waters, this is considered highly undesirable. Existing ambient temperatures on most trout streams in the south are higher than optimum for either trout species during summer periods, making any increase especially critical. Effects on fish and other aquatic organisms are direct physiological stress and the added competition from invasion of

temperature-tolerant fish from downstream.

Removal of all trees from streambanks is detrimental for other reasons, in addition to possible temperature increases. Large trees and rootwads naturally falling into the stream provide ideal cover and living quarters for fish and their prey, and can make the difference between a marginal and an outstanding fishery. The majority of our streams today are severely lacking in large woody material as a result of complete tree removal during the early 20th century logging.

Increase in nutrients

The release of significant amounts of nutrients into a nutrient-rich system could possibly result in accelerated growth of undesirable plants in logging.

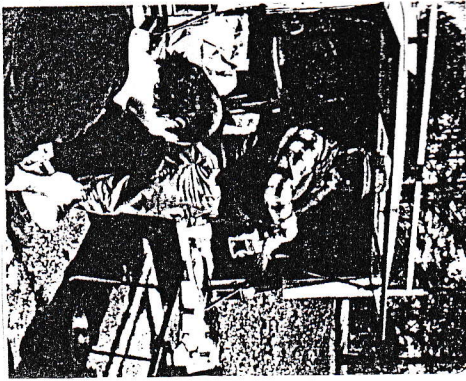


Clearcuts provide openings where plants such as blackberries, hickory and wildfire can thrive. Photo by Gordon Whittington.

downstream reaches. Research has indicated little chance of such problems from timber removal, however, even at highest harvest levels. The rate of nutrient export may be increased, but the total amount is so small that increases can be detected only a short distance downstream. The majority of national forest stream systems are so nutrient poor that any such addition would, in most cases, be desirable from a fishery standpoint.

Increased erosion and stream sedimentation

Sediment eroding into streams affects fish in several ways. Fish such as trout, darters, and other species living or spawning and depositing eggs in gravel are impacted to the greatest degree. The eggs can literally be smothered and never hatch. If hatched, the fry can be entrapped deep in the gravel by the finer



sediments, and then perish. Adult fish of some species, such as darters and madonnas, spend their entire life in the gravel, while others move into this habitat on occasion. Studies have indicated that even mature trout tend to work themselves down into the substrate (streambottom) as winter water temperature approaches 40 degrees. Intertices filled with sediment force the trout to cope with harsh high winter streamflows at reduced metabolic efficiency, thus accelerating mortality. Similar impacts occur to the invertebrate community (aquatic insects, crayfish, snails, etc.), which is a basic source of food for the fish community.

Trout, are sight feeders. Any increase in turbidity affects their feeding efficiency, thus reducing growth rate. The scouring effect of sediment particles during high flows is especially detrimental to algae and other micro-organisms attached to rocks and substrate. This important component of the food chain, seen as a slimy surface on rocks in sediment-free streams, may be almost entirely absent in heavily impacted streams.

Of the potential impacts listed above, erosion and sedimentation are by far the most difficult to control. As stated before, problems expected from nutrient increase have not materialized. Temperature increases can be critical, but it is a relatively simple matter to leave sufficient trees and shrubs along streams to protect against such effects. Retention of at least a portion of the streamside canopy also insures a source of large, woody debris for the stream in future years. At present, all Appalachian, and most other national forests, have incorporated guidelines addressing these issues into their management programs.

Okay, then, how should we approach possible sediment problems associated with timber sales. First, recall the one sentence previously. It's the most important statement in this entire article. To reiterate, well-documented research has shown roads to be the major source of sediment in any timber operation, with little or no increase attributed to the act of felling the trees. The Coweeta Research Laboratory, in making such a determination, cut a woody vegetation in an emul drainage with no resulting increase in sediment. The key was that no roads

Hardly a day passes without some well-intentioned (and some not so well-intentioned) author taking the opportunity to lambast the U.S. Forest Service for their negligence in managing the national forests. The center of controversy swirls around one management activity in particular — clearcutting! Whether the attack is an editorial by a truly concerned citizen, or a lengthy diatribe by a "professional" political motivator, the picture painted is generally the same — chaos and destruction! Wildlife and fish habitats are being destroyed forever! Is there any truth to such claims?

Nothing is forever, but uncontrolled logging by any method certainly has the potential to create severe, if temporary, impacts to all forest resources. Clearcutting is nothing more than a tool to accomplish an objective, and like an axe, can "cut" you if you miss the target. On the other hand, if used properly, it is an invaluable tool in forest and wildlife management.

Why then do people, in general, seem to be so vehemently opposed to its use? There are several reasons, but the following probably sum up the major ones.

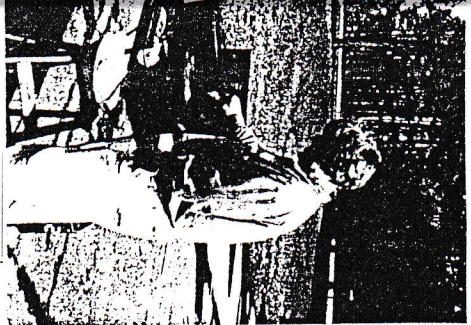
Clearcutting is visually unattractive until new growth obscures signs of the operation. Clearcutting on privately owned land is often accomplished with fewer safeguards for environmental concerns than on national forest lands. The Forest Service often gets "credit" for such operations when they occur adjacent to National Forests. For example, it's not uncommon to see clearcuts of several hundred acres on private lands with little evidence of environmental protective

measures. Clearcuts on Appalachian National Forests on the other hand, cannot exceed 40 acres, and for the past 8 to 10 years, have averaged 20 to 30 acres. In addition, extensive shade and erosion control measures are required on all sales.

Activities occurring in other regions of the United States, but having no applicability in the Southeast, are being treated as if they apply here. For instance, look at the Pacific Coast old-growth controversy. Who can blame individuals for wanting to protect the virgin redwood and Sequoia forests? The fact that they truly are old-growth forests justifies special attention. There are, however, no equivalent old-growth stands on south-

eastern national forests, other than the 4,000-acre Joyce Kilmer Memorial National Forest. In fact, only 20 percent of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park was spared the saw during turn of the century logging. The entire Appalachian National Forests, as we know them now, were logged during the early 1900's, resulting in current stands ranging from 60 to 90 years in age, plus those regenerated during the last 25 years.

If you're concerned that the Forest Service in the Southeast has made no provision for old growth, don't be. Approximately half the acreage in the Appalachian Forests has already been removed from the timber base. Much of



SOME SAY

THIS IS

PUTTING GEORGIA'S

TROUT AT

RISK!

were constructed to remove the cut trees. This leads to a fairly simple assumption: less roads, less sediment. Granted, there may be other minor sources of sediment, but if 90 percent or more of the material eroding streams can be traced to the transportation system, reduction in mileage of roads utilized should be the most effective approach to reducing sediments.

How, then, do we minimize road mileage? Let's look at the various methods of harvesting timber, including single tree selection, group selection, shelterwood, seedtree, and clearcutting. At first glance or thought, it probably seems logical that removing a few scattered trees from a given area would create the least soil disturbance. Not so! The key is that it basically takes as much road to move a piece of equipment to one tree as it does to a group of trees. In addition, it takes more acreage to produce a given volume of lumber by harvesting only a portion of the trees rather than the entire stand. Single tree selection is the worst in this respect, requiring as much as 6 to 8 times the acreage to produce the same volume achieved by clearcutting. Complicating this impact even more is the fact that with any partial cut, additional entries must be made to remove remaining timber. With clearcutting on a 100-year rotation cycle (timber harvested when 100 years old), entry to an area could be limited to one time. Under the single tree or group selection methods, the same area would normally be entered as many as 3 to 10 times during the 100-year period. Single tree offers the least flexibility in this respect, and would provide least benefit to wildlife. Group selection, consisting of mini-clearcuts ranging from 1/4- to 2-acres in size, offers some advantages over single tree in clustering cutting areas into smaller acreage and reducing entries. However, group selection still requires more initial roading and planned entries to a given area than other harvest methods. Wildlife benefits, although definitely better than with single trees, are probably less than with other methods.

Shelterwood and seedtree methods are similar in that both normally require one additional entry to harvest trees remaining after the initial cut. The primary difference is that 30 to 40 percent of the stand is retained after a shelterwood cut, while only a few scattered trees are left in a seedtree. Since a portion of the volume is retained on site in these operations, somewhat more acreage is required to produce a given volume of timber products than with clearcutting. The additional entry to remove the remaining trees creates additional disturbance not necessary with clearcutting. Wildlife benefits should be closer to those attained with clearcutting, especially where only a small percentage of the canopy is retained in the initial cut. If substantial canopy (40 percent or more) is retained, soft mast production and stem density (important to ruffed grouse) of the new stand will not equal that produced by clearcutting.

The political pressure against clearcutting has generated new harvest methods. In one approach, foresters, in an attempt to make economically viable timber sales, are marking all commercial (timber they can sell) trees just as they would in a clearcut. A component of the non-commercial timber is retained as "shelterwood" to be harvested later, instead of being felled to make way for the new stand. I can't help but question this approach, since the quality of stems remaining, in most cases, is certainly lower than those removed. The immediate economics of making such a sale can't be equalled by other methods since there is no cost incurred in felling the trees, as in clearcutting. What will be the effect of leaving suppressed or low quality stems on the future stand? Possibly bad from both a silvicultural and wildlife standpoint.

Clearcutting is simply the felling of all trees in the selected stand, other than snag, den, and other trees or shrubs left for wildlife or other purposes. Maximum timber volume per acre is removed, resulting in significantly less total acreage and road mileage necessary to achieve a given timber volume than with partial cutting. No additional entries are necessary until the new stand is mature. Cost/benefit is certainly more favorable for clearcutting than with partial cutting. A recent analysis on a group selection cut on the Wyaan Ranger District near Franklin, North Carolina, showed three times the cost to simply lay out and mark 40 acres of 1/2- to 2-acre cutting units in a 160-acre area, than would have been incurred in laying out a single 40-acre clearcut. The additional road construction costs undoubtedly added the total even further.

The use of specialized logging techniques such as cable logging systems is much more feasible with clearcutting than partial cutting, due to better economics and less potential damage to trees left in place. With these systems, cables are suspended from a tower on a log landing and anchored to trees as far as 1,200 feet downslope. Tension is then applied to the main cable. A carriage, hooked to a smaller cable, is then moved up and down the main line, picking up logs and literally "flying" them back to the landing. Soil disturbance with such systems on steep terrain is minimal. Studies have shown that on sales with slopes over 35 percent, use of these "skyline" systems resulted in less than 5 percent deep soil disturbance, with equivalent skidder sales creating 20 to 35 percent deep soil disturbance. The major difference was the additional roads required by the skidders or dozers.

There is a place in forest management for all cutting methods. With the economic advantage, potential for minimizing stream sedimentation, and wildlife benefits, I would certainly hope that clearcutting can be retained as a viable management option, along with other harvest methods, to be used on a site-specific basis as a means of reducing environmental impacts or optimizing benefits for fish and wildlife.

Keep in mind the overall beneficial aspect of the national forest timber program, even when sales are termed "below cost." The direct benefit of the diversity in age classes and vegetative composition to wildlife created by harvesting, and especially clearcutting, is invaluable. The browse and soft mast such as grape, blackberry, blueberry, greenhater and dogwood berries, produced by opening the canopy is practically nonexistent in mature forests. You may not realize that, in addition to the vegetative diversity provided by timber harvesting, money generated by these sales supports over half the direct wildlife and fish habitat (wildlife orienting, planning, fish habitat orienting, etc.) program in Southern States. Without these funds timber management programs would be severely curtailed. □

Date: MAY 14, 1992

Dear Rabun Chapter TU Members,

The third annual "Kids Fishing Rodeo" at Nancytown Lake, on the Chattahoochee National Forest, turned out to be a big success.

A total of 226 children and their parents experienced a fun Saturday morning catching fish, enjoying refreshments and receiving awards and prizes. Eight rods and reels were given out for first place prize winners for the biggest fish and heaviest stringer of fish caught. These were for kids in four age groups ranging from 0-4, 5-8, 9-12, and 13-16, years old. The fifty remaining rods, tackle boxes and reels were given away by drawing names.

The kids and their parents enjoyed refreshments after the fishing was over. Lemonade, kool-aid and cookies were served.

We truly believe this is a great opportunity to get kids interested in fishing and hopefully get them "hooked on fishing" for the rest of their life. By doing this we hope to give children something to do that is fun and beneficial, thus occupying their free time and keeping them off the street, off of drugs and out of trouble.

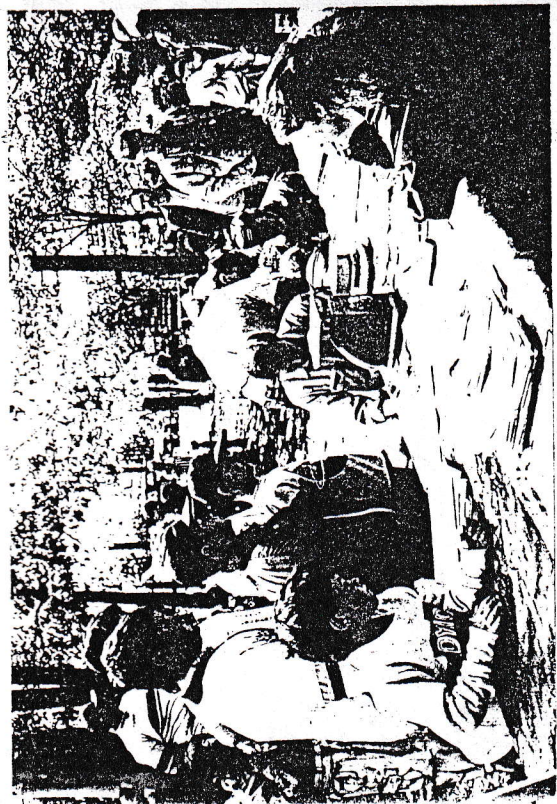
Thanks to you and your generous donation the fishing rodeo was a great success. The U.S. Forest Service and State Game & Fish could not have accomplished it without your help. Please feel assured it was used wisely.

Thank you again for your donation, time, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Watson

Doug Watson,
WILDLIFE BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN
U. S. FOREST SERVICE
CHATTOOGA RANGER DISTRICT



NANCYTOWN LAKE KID'S FISHING RODEO

Annual kids' fishing rodeo full of family fun

awn on Saturday, May 9, came slowly as a thick fog shrouded the land. However, the rain that had fallen on for about three days was thus as the rising sun began to off the fog and I headed out Nancytown Lake in southern Georgia County. I knew that we enjoy a fine annual fishing for the kids, just like we did

Habersham County, who was in charge of this year's affair. Among the many helpers I saw were Jeff Durniak, stream biologist with the Georgia DNR, and Jimmy Harris, president of the Foothills Chapter. Also pitching in to help the kids were Frankie Green, Tony Roberson, and Betty Matthews, all with the USFS. Betty, who emceed last year's rodeo, is now in Murphy, N.C., but came back to help. Several wives of men involved helped with refreshments and records.

Among many young people and parents that I met were Ronald Bryson of Mt. Airy, his son Corey, age 5; and daughter Amanda, age 4. They had about four trout apiece at the time of our interview. Also, Mark Stephens of Mt. Airy, with son William, age 7, and daughter Bridget, age 2, had a mixed catch of trout and catfish. Before leaving the Mt. Airy group, I met Dank Hammock with his son Bill, age 5, who also had caught trout and catfish.

Old friends John and Joyce Almond lined the banks with children Glenda, Johnny, Sharon, and John Jr. — mostly dragging out

fisty catfish as I paused to watch Elaine Ouerbourg of Marietta assist her son Joseph, age 8, and daughter Vanessa, age 9. Her husband, Wayne, sits with the Kanooka Chapter of Trout Unlimited, who also helped sponsor this derby.

I met Ann Caudell of Habersham County with her son Arnon, age 3. Then there was Justin and Brady Smith, with their dad, Benny. More Smiths of Baldwin, were Ken and Tammy, with Jan, 5, and Daniel, 2. Catfish were being brought in here.

Many prizes were given out upon completion of the rodeo. The main prize was a tackle box full of lures, \$10 worth which was won by Jennifer Whitehead donated by Whinn's Fisheries of Hollywood. Many other companies also contributed to this worthy program.

Fishing rodeos for young people are being conducted now in Rabun, Habersham, White and some other counties in northeast Georgia. It is a blessing just to watch parents and their children interact on an outing in our wonderful area of mountains, forests, lakes and streams. Families who fish "together" will stay together!

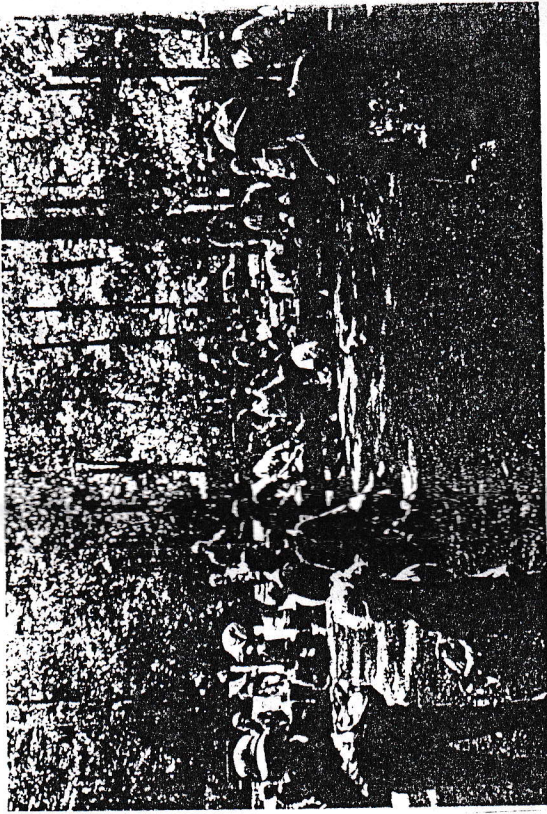


Bob Justus

Columnist

As I walked under the tall, stately poplars and grand old white oaks surrounding the pretty lake, a couple of big Canadian geese flew in high from the west, arousing loud calls of greeting from geese already on the water. The two newcomers swept in perfect formation across the lake, then banked in spirals until they splashed to a landing near the others, who welcomed them with obvious pleasure. It was a stirring sight!

I greeted Doug Watson, wildlife technician with the USFS and member of the Foothills Chapter of Trout Unlimited, centered in



Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Route 1, Box 1638, Clarkesville, Georgia 30523
(706) 947-3112

Joe D. Tanner, Commissioner
David J. Waller, Director, Game and Fish Division

May 18, 1992

Doug Adams
P.O. Box 65
Rabun Gap, GA 30568

Dear Doug:

Once again the Rabun Chapter came through, providing financial assistance and technical expertise to the 3rd annual Nancytown Kids Fishing Rodeo held on May 9, 1992. On behalf of Georgia DNR, I want to thank you and your membership very, very much for your contributions.

By our last count, over 220 kids were registered. Fishing was slow early, but picked up greatly during the latter hours. Eight prizes were given to the age-class winners along with 53 other prizes awarded to kids whose names were drawn at random. This included one little girl who won the grand prize, a fully stocked tackle box (\$100 value).

Thanks to official fish weigher Tom Landreth, brother Walt, coordinator Jim Harris and his new Habersham buddies (The Foothills Chapter), and the Jim Robertson led Kanooka TU Contingent for bringing worms, baiting hooks, explaining rules, pointing to bathrooms, giving out prizes, and locating the Kool-Aid. You are sportsmen in the highest sense of the word. I appreciate each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey P. Durniak
Fisheries Biologist

JD/sj
cc: Jim Harris
Bobby Bell