

October Meeting To Focus on Forest Planning Process

Marcus Beard, who is the leader for the Forest Service Planning Team, will be one of the featured speakers at the **October** meeting. The Forest Plan has been the topic of several meetings and many of the newsletters. Several chapter members have been actively involved in the process to this point. **Marcus** will update the chapter on the status of the plan, detail the process, and most importantly - how the chapter and individuals can influence the process and thus the final draft of "The Plan."

The other guest speaker for October's meeting will be **Dave Dunning** from Shaw Industries. Mr. Dunning will present a video demonstrating ways to improve gravel roads and reduce sedimentation. He will also discuss the status of the demo project on the Burrells Rd.

We need a good crowd for both of these guest speakers. Other chapter business will be kept to a minimum to allow plenty of time for questions. **Please join us at the Rock House in Clayton on Tuesday, October 21st, at 6:30pm for refreshments, meeting at 7pm.**

Some Common Fishing Terms Explained

Angler: An obsessed individual who owns a house that is falling down due to neglect, a truck whose color can be best described as Rust-Oleum, and a pristine boat that he chamois' down methodically before and after each trip.

Knot: (1) An insecure connection between your hook and fishing line. (2) A permanent tangle in your backing which forces you to go out a buy a bigger, better, and much more expensive reel.

Landing Net: A net used to help drag a large wiggling fish, or inebriated fishing buddy on board.

Live Bait: The biggest fish you will handle all day.

Quiet Water: Your surroundings after you stop cursing your bad luck and fall asleep on the bank.

Shrunken Fisherman: One who returns to the parking lot many, many hours after his buddies have gone home so that there are no witnesses to his catch or lack thereof.

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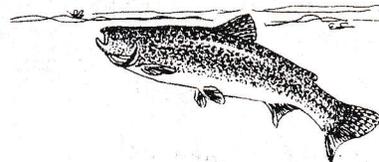
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The List.....

As President Burken found out, do a good job and someone will notice and give you some more work!! That is basically what happened at the last meeting when the Prez got elected for another year. The list to the left will remain the same for the coming months. Thanks to a the officers that enthusiastically agreed to guide our chapter through another year.



A Drive Down The Issue Of Roads

In the Chattooga River watershed, roads and lack of proper maintenance account for 80% of point source erosion, sedimentation, and resulting water quality degradation. Roads are an important issue for the chapter. **Ross W. Gorte**, Economist and Specialist in Natural Resources Policy, Environment and Natural Resources Policy Division prepared a report titled *Forest Roads: Construction and Financing*. The report was prepared for members and committees of Congress. In the summary, Mr. Gorte notes that "New road construction has declined by 75% in the past decade, and road reconstruction has declined by half." In the background information he points out that opposition to road building generally involves three issues: 1) environmental damages, particularly to water quality and wildlife habitat, 2) roads eliminate roadless areas that some people want to maintain, and 3) roads are expensive to build and maintain. He also comments on the fact that reconstruction is not as likely to be opposed because it is less expensive and it might improve the environment by reducing the sediment load and without entering a roadless area. Another note, which is very important to TU members is the fact that "As part of the forest health issue, inadequate road maintenance has been identified as a significant cause of watershed deterioration."

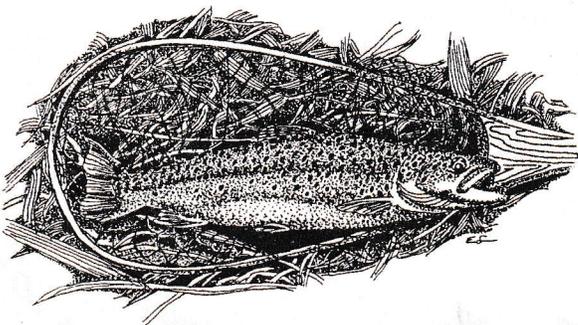
There were several other noteworthy comments in the report:

>Only 38% of the national forest road system was maintained at levels consistent with current uses in FY1996; this is a decline from 47% of the system fully maintained in FY1990. As of FY1994, 20% of the system was closed to use, of which 40% was fully maintained. The remaining roads (both open & closed) are maintained at less than necessary to provide for current use. Although this suggest a backlog, no backlog has been identified in either the annual *Report of the Forest Service* or the agency budget requests.

>The Forest Service receives annual appropriations for road maintenance. The funding has been stable for the past several years, but is more than 15% below the peak appropriations of \$96.4 million in FY1990. Although the road system grew 4% between FY1990 and FY1995, the fully-maintained mileage declined by 16%, from 47% of the system in FY1990 to only 38% in FY1995.

At the October meeting, Dave Dinning who is the Manager of Recycling Technologies and Construction Materials for Shaw Industries, will be talking to the chapter about roads. In particular, gravel roads and ways to improve them in a county that has several major gravel roads. With the issue of roads moving to the forefront, it is worth noting that in the 1998 proposed budget for the US Forest Service, \$258,000 has been included for reconstruction of the Burrells Ford Rd. The main

justification for the project is environmental protection, in particular water quality. This would be a good time to contact Nathan Deal and help ensure the \$258,000 stays in the budget. With the reconstruction of Burrells Ford Rd., one down and how many to go?



TU Approves Ambitious Conservation Agenda In Knoxville

Nearly 250 TU leaders attended Trout Unlimited's Annual Meeting in Knoxville, Tenn. on July 31-August 3. By all accounts, the meeting was a tremendous success with the passage of TU's 1998 National Conservation Agenda and with more than \$25,000 raised for acid deposition monitoring in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

"TU's Tennessee Council and Southeast Region put on an extremely well-orchestrated meeting, allowing us to focus on the conservation business at hand," said Charles Gauvin, TU's President. "I'm especially pleased about the work done by the National Resource Board (NRB). The Board approved the organization's 1998 conservation agenda and two major salmonid policy documents that will inject current scientific thinking into our conservation programs."

In addition to affirming TU's ongoing efforts in the broad categories of water quality, instream flows, Pacific and Atlantic salmon, and wild salmonid genetics, the NRB agreed to enhance some of TU's existing programs and incorporate several new issues. Issues slated for increased emphasis include:

- making better use of local watershed initiatives to control polluted runoff;
- ensuring increased funding for acid mine drainage remediation;
- increasing involvement in the federal management of grazing to reduce environmental impacts;
- continuing work on reducing the effects of acid rain;
- adding the proposed Crandon Mine, which threatens Wisconsin's Wolf River fisheries, to TU's campaign against three major mine proposals, including New World/Yellowstone (MT), ASARCO/Rock Creek (MT/ID), and Seven Up Pete/Blackfoot River (MT);
- addressing ongoing and new threats to Southeastern tailwater fisheries;
- educating the public about threats

posed to coldwater resources by out-of-basin water transfers;

- increasing salmon advocacy efforts in support of Snake River dam breaching and John Day reservoir drawdowns; and
- pursuing California's broken promise to assess the impacts of its stocking program on wild and native trout.

New issues added to next year's conservation agenda include:

- ensuring proper remediation of flood-damaged streams to reduce destructive impacts of unregulated bulldozing;
- assisting TU activists involved in land use decisions to minimize the impacts of development on coldwater habitats;
- supporting TUers who are pursuing removal of small dams; and
- addressing the ecological risks of aquaculture operations.

The NRB also approved TU's *North American Salmonid Policy: Science-Based Guidance for 21st Century Conservation* (see p. 5), which will guide decision-making for TU's coldwater programs. It incorporates current scientific knowledge into guidelines for TU's conservation policies and reflects several important shifts in scientific understanding of trout and salmon and the threats to their habitat. Said Gauvin, "By taking the high ground and ensuring that the best available science informs TU's programs, we can help ensure that our states and federal agencies also 'do the right thing' when it comes to coldwater conservation." The NRB unanimously approved the new policy.

The NRB also approved TU's *West Coast Salmon and Steelhead Protection and Restoration Action Plan*, which is aimed to provide a single, comprehensive TU agenda for salmon and steelhead recovery in the Northwest. It provides a road map for fisheries recovery that

An Open Letter From The Convention Chairman

On behalf of TU's Tennessee Council and Southeast Region, I'd like to thank TU's board, regional vice presidents, staff, and members for attending the 38th National Convention held in Knoxville. I hope that your time in Tennessee was productive and enjoyable.

With nearly 250 conservationists representing all of TU's 10 regions, this year's convention was one of the most well-attended in TU's history. Over 200 guests attended the national awards luncheon and honored chapter newsletter editors, conservation professional, chapters, and individual members for their outstanding contributions to TU's mission. More than 400 people helped make our National Conservation Banquet and Auction a huge success, raising over \$25,000 for TU's cooperative efforts with the National Park Service to monitor acid deposition in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

It was our intention in hosting the convention to provide the most organized, informative and fun event possible. We hope that we accomplished those goals and that you will continue to support TU by attending its 39th National Convention next year in Reno, Nevada. Thank you.—Rick Murphree, Chairman, 38th National TU Convention

focuses on uniting agency efforts and reducing or eliminating the adverse impacts of habitat loss, hydropower, overharvest, and hatchery production.

The NRB re-elected Steve Born as Chairman and Ray Mortensen, Southeast Regional Vice President, as Secretary. The Board also recognized and paid tribute to Dave Taylor, former NRB Chairman and a long-time TU leader from Colorado, for his outstanding contributions to coldwater conservation.

The NRB will convene next year at TU's Annual Meeting in Reno, Nev., on August 13-16, 1998. ■

Tight Lines

October October

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Monthly meeting at Rock House in Clayton. Refreshments at ^:30pm, meeting at 7pm

Rabun Chapter of Trout
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