

TIGHT LINES



NEWSLETTER OF THE RABUN CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

October 1999

DATE OF OCTOBER MEETING CHANGED

Be sure to change your calendar to reflect a date change for the chapter's monthly meeting from the 19th of October to the **26th**. This change is necessary in order for our chapter to make itself known at a USFS Work Shop (details elsewhere).

Henry Williamson will be first up on the program and will demonstrate his flytying skills and knot tying. If you have any interest in fly tying or just want to learn more about flies and how they are constructed, don't miss this meeting. There is a good chance **Kyle Burrell** will be on hand as well

as another experienced tyer from the **Unicoi Outfitters** fly shop.

Those members attending the workshop in Clemson will report on what went on in this very important event and more discussion centering around the Rendezvous will take place.

So, try to make the meeting on Tuesday, October 26th at the Rock House on Main Street in Clayton, Georgia. As usual, we will gather about 6:30 PM and get Henry started about 7:00 PM.

PLANS FOR THE OCONEE-CHATTAHOOCHEE NATIONAL FOREST ENTER A CRITICAL STAGE

Unless you are into fishing for sculpin and stone rollers, you should consider attending one or more of the workshops and input meetings conducted by the USFS. The purpose of these meetings is to concentrate discussion on issues in the proposed "rolling alternative", and to seek common ground on these issues.

The first of these meetings will be held at the Ramada Inn, Clemson, SC on Monday & Tuesday, October 18th & 19th, beginning at 6:00 PM and running to 9:00 PM. The first night will be informational, giving background and context for where the USFS is in the planning process and explaining the "rolling alternative". Through concurrent breakout sessions the issues will be sorted to determine if the USFS is on target or if the "rolling alternative" needs more work.

The 2nd Day workshop will consist of in depth discussions, based on the 1st day results.

The Saturday Meeting is designed to conclude work in those areas where substantial agreement might be obtainable with more public dialogue. A discus-

sion of those issues where additional analysis and information are needed before substantial public agreement could be sought for how the Rolling Alternative is responding to these issues or whether it does not appear that any common ground can be found.

Input meetings are scheduled at various locations in November and December and are designed to fine tune the Rolling Alternative.

These meetings and workshops are extremely important if we as outdoor sports men and women are to have a voice in managing the National Forests. There are groups who will be in attendance and who have little, if any, interest in the effects the management plan will have on hunting and fishing. If at all possible, try to make the Clemson workshop. If you need a ride over, give a call to either Doug Adams 743-2158 or Tom Landreth 746-2295 and maybe we can all go together.

MORE ON THE ALTERNATIVE



SALMO TRUTTA NEEDS A TRIM

There are a whole bunch of Brown Trout at the Burton Hatchery that are in need of a trim before they take their helicopter ride to the Chattooga River.

Lee Keefer, Georgia DNR, will be hosting this yearly event on Friday, October 29th, beginning at 9:00 AM. If you need more than a trout filled Chattooga in the year 2000 as an incentive, the hatchery staff will be cooking hamburgers for us shortly after

11:00. So plan now to come on over to the Burton Hatchery on the 29th. If you simply can't make it on that date, Lee and the staff could use some help the day before, Thursday the 28th at 9:00 AM.

If you haven't clipped fins before, the hatchery supplies the nippers. You should come prepared for cool weather and cold water on your hands as you nip that adipose fin. No experience necessary.

NEEDED: ONE ENTERTAINING, INFORMATIVE SPEAKER

Well, Wanda Taylor couldn't make it for the Rendezvous so we are back to square one. Put on your thinking cap. An outdoor writer? A humorist who has a knowledge of trout and trout fishing? An entertaining conservationist? A good story teller? My gosh..I've just described LeRoy Powell! Maybe that's our problem. Anyway, give it some thought.

The Theme and Emphases of the Rolling Alternative

Forest ecosystems would be maintained and restored to ensure healthy watersheds; provide for sustainable and diverse ecosystems; support viable plant, wildlife and fish populations; and to provide for high quality recreational opportunities.

- 1 Maintain healthy watersheds and degraded watersheds would be restored, to maintain or improve water quality and quality habitats.
- 2 Habitats for those species needing large, contiguous forested landscapes would be maintained or increased; and there would be suitable habitat conditions to maintain populations of those vertebrate species native to the planning area. Management action would be taken where needed to conserve and re-

cover threatened, endangered, sensitive and locally rare species.

- 3 With few exceptions, inventoried roadless areas would be managed to retain their unroaded character. All inventoried roadless areas will be considered for Wilderness recommendations based upon the evaluation of the potential wilderness criteria. Outside of the inventoried roadless areas, there may be some unroaded areas that could become recommended for Wilderness. All rivers eligible for consideration as Wild and Scenic Rivers would be managed to protect their "outstandingly remarkable values."
- 4 A spectrum of high quality, nature-based recreational settings would be

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- provided. There would be an emphasis on providing those recreational opportunities that are not widely available on non-Federal lands, such as opportunities in non-motorized settings with high quality landscapes. The acres of land providing semi-primitive and non-motorized recreational opportunities would remain the same or increase from the amount currently inventoried. The scenic and aesthetic values of the National Forest lands would be protected or enhanced.
- 5 A variety of large, medium and small old growth patches would be managed to meet biological and social needs. All existing inventoried old growth patches would be protected and there would be appropriate land allocations to ensure an adequate representation of those old growth forest communities found on National Forest lands. The rare communities found on National Forests would be protected or restored. All existing Special Management areas would continue with their existing management direction. Additional areas may be identified for Special Management land allocations.
- 6 The health of forest vegetation would be improved by replacing off-site species, thinning overstocked stands, and restoring fire-dependent and fire-associated communities. Where appro-

priate and consistent with the values for which the forest is being managed, risks to forests from wildfire, insect and disease damage, and exotic or non-native invasive plants would be reduced.

- 7 Wood products would become available as a result of applying silvicultural activities to achieve the desired composition, structure, and function of forest ecosystems. The rate implementing these activities would be such that a stable supply would be available to the local industries over time.

A minimum transportation system would be available that improves access for forest road users while protecting forest resources. Generally, access will be limited to those areas that can be accessed by maintaining or reconstructing existing system roads, or through the construction of temporary roads. New permanent roads would only be constructed in a few situations. The pace of decommissioning unneeded roads, (both classified and unclassified) would be accelerated.

To get on the USFS mailing list, contact by phone:
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest
Planner: Marcus Beard 770-536-0541

On the internet: "<http://www.fs.fed.us/conf/>" for info on the Chattahoochee-Oconee NFs

Or, stop in at the District Ranger's office nearest you and ask for copies of all the alternatives.

POPCORN CREEK UPDATE

Thanks to Doug, Frank, Bill, Neal, Terry, Tom and Doug Watson USFS, for turning out for the Popcorn Creek maintenance work project. We cleaned out earlier installed structures and got the stream moving. There seemed to be an unusually heavy load of soil and sediment and could be coming from the road accessing this area. It is more than disheartening to know that the work may be in vain.

GARLAND ON THE MEND

I'm happy to report that Garland Stewart is home after surgery and some serious complications. Although temporarily confined to the lounge chair, Garland is doing fine and should be back to his old self in a few weeks. It's hard to keep a tough old bird down. Look forward to some productive stream research followed by gourmet type cooking, Garland. Get well soon.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 18-19	Andrew Pickens Workshop Ramada Inn, Clemson, SC	6:00 - 9:00 PM
Oct. 26	Chapter Meeting Fly & Knot Tying	6:30 PM
Oct 28	Fin Clipping at Lake Burton	9:00 AM
Oct 29	Fin Clipping at Lake Burton	9:00 - 11:00 AM
Nov 08 - 09	Chattahoochee Workshop Gainesville College	4:00 - 8:00 PM
Nov 16	Chapter Meeting	6:30 PM
Nov 29	Blairsville Input Mtg.	6:00 - 8:00 PM
Nov 30	Blue Ridge Input Mtg.	6:00 - 8:00 PM
Dec 07	Clayton Input Mtg	6:00 - 8:00 PM
Dec 09	Clarkesville Input Mtg	6:00 - 8:00 PM
Dec 21	Christmas Dinner Meeting Dillard Rock House	6:00 PM



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