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Comments:

Hi Alice,

Good to meet you in the parking lot after the meeting.

Here are some thoughts:

First, I liked having the lumber guy there. When first came down here in '87, lumber companies were very much the enemy. They were clearcutting and trashing large areas and shipping the wood off to pulp mills. Now things have maybe changed a bit.

So, about logging:

1. I don't want to see our wood exported. Exporting raw materials and importing finished goods is what colonies do, and one of the main reasons we had a revolution here. We should stay up the value-added chain by using our wood first locally, then regionally, then nationally, as much as possible.

2. I really like the idea of using silviculture as part of forest management. If someone can make money and jobs doing something which the forest needs anyway, I'm totally in favor of that.

Wild and Scenic:

I've run the Nolichucky, East Fork of the Tuckaseegee, Chatooga, lots of other stuff around here. Those three should definitely be Wild and Scenic, specifically Nolichucky Gorge, East Fork Tuck to Bonas Defeat or further, most or all of the Chatooga from headwaters to lake.

Panther town Valley is a really unique place (I used to trim trail there with Carlton McNeil) and the whole thing should have good protection.

Mountain Bikers:

Basicalliy, I hate them. I've taken to carrying a good stout stick if I have to hike on a trail they use because it tends to adjust their attitude from the default "GTF out of my way" to "BEAR!". I got tired of nearly being run into by adolescents seeing how much they can tear up a steep trail on the way down. They destroy any trails they use and should be treated like ATVs or dirt-bikes. You can often see their tracks on trails closed to mountain bikes. If mountain biking can be limited to responsible adults staying on permitted trail, riding so they are able to stop at any time if they come upon a hiker, and never going off-trail, fine. Otherwise get rid of them.

Thanks,

jim