

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

SCOTT RUN TIMBERING STILL A CONCERN

During 2010, the West Virginia Division of Forestry (DOF) continued its plans for timbering in the Scott Run area of Coopers Rock State Forest (CRSF). It fell to the Coopers Rock Foundation (CRF), with the support of other environmental groups, to keep discussions focused on the issues.

As part of its advocacy to protect the CRSF, CRF undertook several initiatives. Early in 2010, a letter was sent to US Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the WV Attorney General (among others), requesting plans for timbering at CRSF be put on hold until environmental concerns were addressed and protections put in place for two endangered species that call the Forest home - the Cheat Three-tooth Snail and the Indiana bat.

In addition to the risk to endangered species, the main concerns CRF has are the potential for the project to cause stream degradation in the Scott Run and its tributaries and the impact

of the project on recreation on Raven Rock Trail, one of the most visible and utilized parts of the forest

CRF requested:

- 50 foot no-cut buffer zones for trails and streams

• Maintain the integrity of the trails and the viewshed, as visible from the main road and Raven Rock Trail

- 200 foot buffer zone for both existing and potential snail habitat areas

To provide education and information on the project, CRF created a Scott Run II Timbering Project Fact Sheet, that is available to interested individuals through the organization and on its website, www.coopersrock.org

In response to CRF efforts, DOF has agreed to remove the Raven Rock Trail from being designated as a timber haul road and to conduct additional research on the snail habitats.

As we move into 2011, CRF will continue to work on the remaining critical issue - the lack of protection for the streams.



COOPERS ROCK FOUNDATION 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Adam Polinski

CRF also organized walkthroughs so community members could see first-hand areas to be impacted by the timbering project. DOF also held a walkthrough late in the year, at the request of CRF, to explain its plans and to answer questions.

COOPERS ROCK FOUNDATION
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Mission Statement: *To preserve and protect the past, present, and future of Coopers Rock State Forest and the Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area*

CLIFF HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

The biggest single volunteer day of the past year was the Cliff Habitat Restoration Day. 110 volunteers contributed 453 hours and 25 minutes. Over a third of the volunteers came just to give back to the forest, including a Wheeling family who came to participate in the day. Many groups also sent volunteers including Adventure WV, Fairmont State Wilderness Explore Program, Fairmont State Outdoor Club, WVU Climbing Club, WVU Air Force ROTC, WVU Brooke Tower, and WVU Horticulture Club. Pizza was provided by CRF and Papa Johns. As one volunteer said, "This was a wonderful volunteer experience because it was well organized, there was plenty to do at one's own pace, and people were cheerful."



RETREAT OUTCOME: A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

In preparation for a busy future, CRF held a strategic planning retreat in late 2010. Board members conducted a review of the organization's by-laws and articles of incorporation, and finalized a Mission Statement, that can be seen on the front of this Annual Report. In addition, five standing committees were created to advance the mission of the organization - Communications, Historic Preservation, Conservation, Recreation and Events.

CELEBRATION OF THE OUTDOORS

2010 marked the 21st Celebration of the Outdoors for CRF. Between 75-100 people were on hand to enjoy the recreation and education programs, conducted by local volunteers. Although most of these adults and children came to CRSF especially for the Celebration, participants also included visitors to the forest who enthusiastically joined in "celebrating."

Educational offerings for the Day included bird watching, rock climbing, fly casting, t-shirt making and cairn building. Other activities included an Environmental Roundtable where local leaders could share information, ideas and updates.

The 2011 Celebration will be held on Sat., June 11.

CCC FIREPLACE RESTORATION



One of the most exciting of CRF's new initiatives is the restoration of the many fireplaces, constructed at CRSF by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

During the middle of the last century, more than 20 fireplace sites were built by the CCC for the use of and enjoyment by West Virginians. To preserve this element of the Forest's history, CRF has undertaken to repair these sites, which range from completely flattened to "not so bad." To date, most of the fireplaces with chimneys have been cleaned and the plan is to secure funds so restoration work may continue this spring.



WHAT IS THE COOPERS ROCK FOUNDATION (CRF)?

Coopers Rock State Forest is one of the largest and most visited state forests in the West Virginia system. More than a quarter of a million people use this forest in a given year.

The Coopers Rock Foundation (CRF) was established as a nonprofit tax-exempt corporation in May of 1989 and is dedicated to preserving and protecting the past, present, and future of Coopers Rock State Forest and the Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area Coopers Rock State Forest and Snake Hill Wildlife Management area.

CRF members are people who care about the future of Coopers Rock State Forest. The Coopers Rock Foundation is always looking for new members and/or volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a member or in taking a more active role as a Board member or volunteer, contact CRF at ARCWVU@gmail.com

