



Cumberland HCP

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2011

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

| | |
|---|---|
| Notes from The Director | 1 |
| Cumberland HCP Summer Activities | 1 |
| Cumberland HCP Updates | 2 |
| HCP Spotlight: Plateau Properties | 2 |
| Northern Cumberland Forest Resources HCP Update | 3 |
| Critter Corner: White Fringeless Orchid | 4 |
| Upcoming Events | 5 |

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Notes from the HCP Director, Katherine Medlock

I am thrilled to announce that the HCP has been awarded another year of funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These funds will be used to complete the Northern Cumberland Forest Resources HCP and address any issues that come up during review by the Fish and Wildlife Service and they will also be used to continue our work on the Cumberland HCP (formerly referred to as the Water Resources HCP). This is excellent news and it is even better coupled with the great strides we have made over the summer. I think you will find this newsletter chock full of exciting developments. The Cumberland HCP team has been hard at work this summer and some of our accomplishments include major strides toward completion of the conservation measures, establishing a funding team

to develop a plan for the successful implementation of the HCP, and completion of the conceptual framework for the take model.

First and foremost, the HCP is a science-based process and our Director of Science, Dr. Chris Burcher, reports that his team has made significant progress determining how to link the covered species' needs to on-the-ground actions that will be implemented by the City of Crossville and Cumberland County. These conservation measures aim to decrease the impact severity of development to maintain habitat quality and provide a healthy environment for the covered species. Also, the science team has been working hard developing a technique for quantifying "take," or the degree to which projected population growth will negatively influence the covered species and their

habitats. Together, the conservation measures and take model represent a large part of the HCP development and guide the decisions to be made in the next few months. We continue to discuss the conservation measures with the applicants to create a plan that will allow effective and practical species and habitat protection while allowing for growth in Crossville and Cumberland County for the duration of the HCP. The process continues as the science team develops a monitoring plan to periodically assess the effectiveness of the conservation measures through the next 30 years.

I hope you all had a great summer and please contact us if you'd like to find out more about our progress.

Katherine Medlock

Cumberland HCP Summer Activities

The HCP Team has had a very busy summer! Aside from drafting conservation measures, continuing data compilation for the take model, outreach presentations, etc., the Team found some time to partner with our applicant liaisons for fun and education.

HCP Team members Bar-

bara Rosensteel and Teresa Payne participated in the City of Crossville's Annual Sustainability Fair in May. They provided an educational opportunity for Crossville students to learn the effects of sedimentation in streams with a hands-on demonstration at the HCP booth. Over 500 stu-

dents visited the HCP booth and also received educational materials to take back to the classroom for discussion.

A great time was had by all in May at the Paw & Order doggie event held on the Cumberland County Courthouse lawn. Dog loving members of the HCP

cont. on page 4

Cumberland HCP Update:

Permitting Partnership Coordination Committee (PPCC)

If someone is planning to build a house, a shopping center, or a new road, they are likely responsible for obtaining permits from one or more regulatory agencies, which costs time and money. In an effort to streamline this permitting process through the Cumberland HCP, the Permitting Partnership Coordination Committee (PPCC) was formed this past spring and consists of a team of members from regulatory agencies including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and Tennessee Valley Authority. The PPCC's purpose is to review and help compile the Cumberland HCP's conservation measures to ensure that they meet or surpass the regulatory agencies' standards and requirements.

Getting these regulatory agencies on the same page with the conservation measures now will help ensure that there are no surprises later and is a vital step in the success of the Cumberland HCP. What does this mean for developers and others who

will be conducting activities covered under the Cumberland HCP? Once the HCP is approved by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, those wishing to develop within Cumberland County and the City of Crossville should experience a streamlined permitting process. Cumberland HCP staff will be conducting workshops to explain the process and present opportunities for incorporating sustainable development practices to local engineers, developers, and the general public.

The members of the PPCC are very enthusiastic about working together toward this effort. They have met several times with HCP staff and have reviewed the development and road/utility crossings conservation measures. A Technical Team made up of engineers and a Nature Conservancy staff member has also reviewed them. These conservation measures are currently being shared with the applicant liaisons for their review. If changes are requested, those changes will be made and shared with the PPCC. Once the conservation measures are approved

by the applicant liaisons and PPCC, they will be presented to the HCP's Outreach Committee. From there, plans are to present the conservation measures to the HCP's Steering Committee for their approval at the November meeting.

The PPCC's involvement in the development of the Cumberland HCP's conservation measures has resulted in agency familiarity and awareness of the HCP and its components. The regulatory agencies are supportive of Cumberland County and the City of Crossville's work to build this HCP. Robert Baker of TDEC, who is a PPCC member, gave a presentation before the Crossville City Council and commended them on their pioneering efforts in developing this HCP. The HCP staff extends sincere gratitude to the PPCC for their continued support and guidance and to the HCP applicants for their visionary approach to conservation planning on the Cumberland Plateau.

HCP Spotlight: Plateau Properties

On June 24th Katherine Medlock sat down with Rob Harrison and Doug Little of Plateau Properties to get their opinions on the Cumberland HCP. Plateau Properties is a family land business based in Crossville. There are 40 family members in the business and they own land in 6 Plateau counties. The following is a synopsis of their conversation.

Q1: What is Plateau Properties' involvement in the HCP?

A1: Plateau Properties is a landowner and potential participant in the HCP. Doug Little sits on the Steering Committee and the Outreach Committee for the project. Rob Harrison has participated with the project from the earliest days and attended some of the very first meetings of the HCP.

Q2: Why does Plateau Properties support the HCP?

A2: The HCP keeps things local and will allow for Plateau Properties and other businesses like them to plan into the future because of the "no surprises" clause. That is a good thing for businesses in Crossville and Cumberland County. Both Rob and Doug feel that the HCP is a better alternative to the traditional method of Endangered Species Act enforcement which often pits the landowner against the government. Doug said, "The HCP is much less adversarial." Additionally, both feel that it is important for them to continue to be very involved with the HCP process in order to make sure that the outcomes are favorable. Rob added that "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

cont. on page 3

Northern Cumberlands Forest Resources HCP Update:

Forest Resources HCP Near Completion!

The complete draft of the Northern Cumberlands Forest Resources HCP has been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Tennessee Ecological Services Field Office. The final draft of the HCP will be reviewed by a representative from the Cookeville field office. Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), the permit applicant, will work with this representative to complete suggested revisions to ensure the HCP provides sufficient conservation of the covered species and meets all requirements of the USFWS, prior to submission to the regional USFWS office in Atlanta. The USFWS has estimated that it will take approximately 2 years from submission to approval. The Nature Conservancy will continue to provide TWRA with needed support during this time.

The final draft is a result of the efforts of many staff within TWRA, especially Regions III and IV, and the staff of the HCP Project Management Team, which includes The Nature Conservancy, Tennessee Technological University and the University of

Tennessee. TWRA and the HCP Project Management Team would like to express our sincere thanks to all of the volunteer efforts of the over 80 scientists who were active on the HCP's Science Advisory Committee. These volunteers played an integral role in understanding the species and their threats to the species within the project area, and advised the group on all other science used in development of the HCP.

This HCP is the first of its kind in the Southeast focusing on forestry activities on approximately 140,250 acres and will provide enhanced conservation for 22 rare species, including two federally listed species, Indiana bat and blackside dace. The group is very proud to be pioneers and hope that they can be role models to others in the natural resources field to improve conservation and planning efforts.



HCP Spotlight: Plateau Properties *continued from page 2*

Q3: How does Plateau Properties think the HCP will benefit the City of Crossville and Cumberland County?

A3: Rob feels that the HCP will promote jobs and the economy by encouraging business in the housing and development sectors. Doug adds that the HCP is a money-saver for businesses because they will know exactly what is expected of them and they will not have to spend time consulting with agencies on every single project.

Q4: What has Plateau Properties learned from the HCP process?

A4: Rob notes that he has learned how much work goes into the process. It has taken a long time and there is a lot of work that has gone into the development of the plan so far. Doug points out the scientific thought process that goes into developing the list of covered species as an example of this.

Q6: What else would you like for others to know about the HCP?

A6: Rob said, "It is important to balance property rights with the environment in a responsible way. Resentment occurs when things are taken by regulation. The HCP is a much better alternative because it is local and cooperative." Also, both note that they are proud of the innovative and pioneering aspect of this project and glad that it is happening here in Crossville and Cumberland County.

Critter Corner: White Fringeless Orchid

Platanthera integrilabia



Have you ever heard of “orchid fever”? Well, the Cumberland HCP folks have it! It is all because the Cumberland Plateau is home to the white fringeless orchid (AKA monkey-face orchid), one of Tennessee’s rare plant species. The orchid family is very diverse and widespread around the world and is thought to be the largest family of flowering plants. The white fringeless orchid is one of several orchid species living in Tennessee, and it grows in colonies in moist areas near wetlands and streams in partially shaded forests and fields.

This perennial orchid grows up to three feet tall and has two to three long, narrow leaves and six to fifteen fragrant, white flowers. Its beautiful flowers can be seen August through September and are pollinated by butterflies and moths. If a flower happens to not be fertilized by a pollinator, self-pollination becomes possible after about a week. It has a mutually beneficial relationship with a fungus that is thought to aid in the orchid’s seed germination rate. Another unique trait of the orchid is that each year the plant grows from a new tuber, and the old tuber from the previous growing season dies back. As a result, the plants have been found up to six inches away from where they were located the previous year.

The white fringeless orchid has been extirpated from North Carolina and Virginia but remains in scattered locations in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Development activities and exotic invasive plants are a couple of threats to the orchid. Development activities can alter hydrology which can destroy the orchid’s habitat, and exotic invasive species can overtake the orchid’s habitat and out-compete it for resources. These threats can be avoided through best management and sustainable development practices such as those currently being developed in the Cumberland HCP.

Cumberland HCP Summertime Activities *continued from page 1*

Team were on hand to distribute brochures describing the Cumberland HCP as well as providing dog owners with pooch waste bags in partnership with the City of Crossville Stormwater staff. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the dogs strut their stuff and receiving some wet kisses! We were also able to meet many friendly humans in the Crossville community!

In June, we were treated to an informative Field Trip sponsored by City of Crossville Stormwater and Planning staff. The Field Trip included a visit to Ozone Falls and a tour of area stormwater projects, where the HCP Team was able to see examples of effective and proactive stormwater design within the community. Many of these practices complement those initiatives included in the HCP.

The Cumberland HCP is moving forward at a steady pace and we are continuing to work closely with our applicant liaisons, committees, concerned citizens, and conservation groups. Please feel free to contact me if you should have any comments or questions. I look forward to hearing from you!

Teresa Payne

Cumberland HCP Outreach Coordinator



Sustainability Fair

Upcoming Events

TN Sustainable Economy Summit
Lipscomb University
October 28-29

TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation
TN Pollution Prevention Partnership (TP3)
Regional Workshops:
East (Maryville, TN) - September 21
Mid (Spring Hill, TN) - October 6
West (Memphis, TN) - October 20



Some of the Cumberland HCP staff and family

The Cumberland HCP Project includes state and local governments, state agencies, organizations, landowners, and other private citizens working together to address issues of growth and conservation of the forests and waters of the Cumberlands of Tennessee.

HCP Staff

Have you ever wondered who works on the Cumberland HCP? Staff members names and titles are listed below the logo for their respective organizations. Contact information for each individual can also be found on our website, www.cumberlandhcp.org.



- Katherine Medlock: Project Director
- Trish Johnson: Science Advisory Committee Forest Resources Coordinator
- Paul Kingsbury: Technical Writer



- Dr. Dave Ostermeier: Project Advisor
- Dr. Chris Burcher: Science Coordinator
- Teresa Payne: Outreach Coordinator
- Dr. Karen Lannom: GIS Specialist and Website Support



- Dr. Hayden Mattingly: Science Advisory Committee Advisor
- Dr. Yoichiro Kanno: Postdoctoral Research Associate (Quantitative Aquatic Ecologist)
- Samantha Wyatt: Research Technician
- Chuck Sutherland: GIS Specialist

We'd like to hear from you! For more information about the Cumberland HCP contact Teresa Payne:

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Check us out on the web: www.cumberlandhcp.org