PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT

NORTH CUMBERLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining
Draft Petition Evaluation Document /
Environmental Impact Statement

U.S. Department of Interior
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has prepared a draft petition evaluation document / environmental impact statement as required by section 522(d) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 and in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This draft PED/EIS presents OSMRE’s evaluation of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tracts Conservation Easement as it pertains to the Petition for Lands Unsuitable for Coal Mining filed by the State of Tennessee on September 30, 2010. It includes an assessment of the potential coal resources of the petition area, including the supply and demand for the coal resources; the potential impacts of the petition designation to the environment and the economy; and alternatives to the petition.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement released the Draft EIS for public review and comment on December 11, 2015. This Draft Public Comment Report includes all the comments received until January 25, 2016. This report will be updated to include all comments received after the comment period ends on February 26, 2016. The following table lists each individual correspondence received and the identification number associated with each correspondence.
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<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<td>3</td>
<td>I am urging the ban on surface mining within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. Mountaintop removal pollutes rivers and streams and drinking water. The financial loss of thousands of jobs supporting tourism is immense. Please protect our rivers and streams for our children. Thank you for your consideration.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>I heartily approve the plan to designate portions of East Tennessee’s mountain ridges as unsuitable for surface mining. I hope that soon all mountaintop coal mining in the Cumberland Mountains will be prohibited as we take actions to protect our environment and save our planet. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity we have to protect some of this regions most valuable lands and environments within these areas included in the LUM and the North Cumberland. I support this petition North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft, and any further protection of this valuable area.</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Please vote in favor of BANNING all mountain top removal, and specifically for the bill to ban mountaintop mining from ANY wildlife management area or state or national park or recreation are. Our mountain beauty is what brings millions of tax $$ to this state every year. Do not destroy this natural resource! Thank you!</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lisa Ellis</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>I am writing in support of the governor’s petition to the OSM to designate portions of the Cumberland Plateau unsuitable for surface mining. The small number of jobs that surface mining on these lands would apparently provide are not worth the devastation brought on by this practice. Tennesseans have worked hard to preserve the plateau, which provides key plant and animal habitat, recreational opportunities, scenic beauty, and tourist dollars. Taking down the mountains runs counter to so much that Tennesseans value about our beautiful state. Surface mining is a pox on &quot;the greenest state in the land of the free.&quot;</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>I support the ban on surface mining in this delicate, fragile environment. The science supports this decision. The OSM should stand by it’s proposal and ban surface mining.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>I have spent the last 40 years enjoying the South Cumberland Plateau: hiking, biking, camping, caving, swimming and exploring the outdoors. My family has summered on the plateau for 6 generations and to even think of mining this pristine wilderness is foolhardy. The recreation of this area is the chief economic driver of the region. People travel from all over the country to spend time on the Cumberland Plateau. Mining would dramatically damage the environment, kill off or drive out the local wildlife and destroy the recreational opportunities. Any mining proposal should be rejected outright.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Thank you for going forward with this.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>It is absolutely CRITICAL that the North Cumberland Wildlife Mgt Area is deemed unsuitable for mining/mountaintop removal. Please protect this area... mountains don't grow back once they're gone!! Thank you for going forward with this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>I would like state that I support designating portions of the state's mountain ridges as unsuitable for surface coal mining in accordance with the state’s wildlife management plans.</td>
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</table>
This legislation makes me so proud to be a Tennessean today. As a travel lover, it is hard to hear the ridicule many other states and countries have for Southern states who are practicing regressive policies that do not look at long term consequences. With this legislation, we are turning that around.

Protecting this land from strip mining is not only good for our environment. It is good for our economy—we have to compete with the increasingly green job market. It is good for our people who are suffering from health issues directly related to strip mining.

Although short term, those who need work in mining will see this as a set back, the next step is connecting these folks in the green jobs that are most certainly available, particularly the solar industry which has seen exponential growth.

We have to stay focused on solutions, because the overall benefits to our economy, public health, and natural resources will outweigh any negative consequences in the long run. Reach out to organizations like SACE, who would be happy to provide assistance in finding employment. Working citizens are contributing citizens that make our state stronger, and that should absolutely be a priority if this goes through.

Thank you!

Please stop the madness...and do the right thing!

Dear Office of Surface Mining, etc.,

RE: The N. Cumberland Wildlife Management Area TN Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft Petition, Evaluation Docs / Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Committee/Members/Authority,

Sir, it is my personal wish, as a citizen of the Republic, and as admin of the Buy TAG economic advocacy project, it is our wishes in what, we believe is noted as Option 4, become the accepted ruling, determination and or choice of this body and through this process, the final, end-result. Ultimately, it is our belief that the best course is to do all things reasonable and perhaps dedicated to guard, protect and sustain the natural habitats as they are currently, or are naturally, in the context of allowing these lands under review in this process, as such should remain as pristine as plausible. It is this citizens wish that only and specifically the concept of: Re-mining- be the only allowed process by those who hold lawful mineral rights, and that it (re-mining) must be done with absolute adherence to every possible and plausible safe guard to protect the indigenous wild life, habitat, lands and all outdoors recreational options and nature- that are known and unknown to enjoy for all, the natural great outdoors in perpetuity, for all citizens and future generations of people of the Republic of our USA.

Sincerely,
Aleq Boyle
Ethicist, Author and Administrative Liaison to www.BuyTAG.us
615 208 4401
www.BuyTAG.us

PLEASE pass restrictions to ban the destruction of mountaintops, damages to our environment. Tennessee's natural beauty is an irreplaceable resource and we owe it to our descendants to protect it.
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>I stand in support with the ban on ridge top surface coal mining. As the petition states, surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs. While that is well and true, the part that I believe really gets to the heart of the issue of surface coal mining was well explained when the petition stated: Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems. Although I live in Nashville and only have the privilege of seeing some of our beautiful National Parks when I visit family members who live in Knoxville, I truly believe this issue is one affecting all Tennesseans. Land is a precious commodity that, in the long run, is worth more to humanity left intact than destroyed for the sake a fossil fuel we as a country are working so hard to move away from. The time and money that would be spent on the mining would be much better served in looking towards alternative forms of energy sources.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>I do not support Surface Coal Mining in East TN.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>I am strongly in favor of a ban on surface mining in East Tennessee. This is an area of valuable, diverse woodlands and wildlife habitat that attracts many visitors. There is a strong tourism industry, and surface mining is a real turn-off for tourists. In addition, although it has major impacts on the environment, wildlife, and “ugliness”, mining only provides a few jobs for the area (135 surface coal extraction jobs in all of Tennessee). Please ban mountain top mining Tennessee, as former Governor Bredesen requested. Surface mining is a detriment rather a benefit to jobs and growth in Tennessee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>I support the ban on mountaintop removal mining on the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee. Keep wild spaces wild!</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Mountaintop surface mining is not appropriate for the Cumberland Mountains. They are home to many endangered species who live in the pristine forests. The area is a draw for tourism and bring good revenue for the state of Tennessee. It has been proven that mountain top mining is extremely destructive to watersheds and it is almost impossible to mitigate the negative effect that impacts the environment below. Please do not allow this to happen thank you.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>I support the ban on surface mining in Tennessee. It is not necessary for our energy future and has negative effects on the beauty of our state. Sincerely, Steve Johnson</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Dear Sirs: Wont you please consider extending/continuing the current ban on &quot;mountaintop removal&quot;? This ban was initiated by the previous governor Bredesen, one of the very few governors who won all the counties in the state of Tennessee. The Cumberland Mountains of eastern TN are renowned for phenomenal forests, rich aquatic life and outstanding outdoor recreation. In an indirect testimonial of the popularity of this are of the state it must be noted that there is no &quot;off season&quot; in Gatlinburg or the Smokey Mountains parks. Millions of tourists enjoy the Cumberland Mountains that create thousands of jobs for Tennesseans. Tourists do not visit the mountains to see surface mining and mountaintops removed. Another consideration is that the rivers and streams contain extremely high concentrations of endangered species in North America. Also, the Bredesen petition does not affect underground mining or permits for surface mining that have already been issued. Finally, only 135 surface coal jobs in Tennessee, while the tourism industry has created thousand and counting. Thank you for your time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>The Cumberland Mountains are renowned for phenomenal forests, rich aquatic life and outstanding outdoor recreation. The rivers and streams contain extremely high concentrations of endangered species in North America. The Bredesen petition does not affect underground mining or permits for surface mining that have already been issued. There are only 135 surface coal jobs in Tennessee. Millions of tourists enjoy the Cumberland Mountains that create thousands of jobs for Tennesseans. Tourists do not visit the mountains to see surface mining and mountaintops removed. We own properties adjacent to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The surrounding counties - Scott, Fentress, Morgan and Pickett - all depend heavily on the natural surroundings to support the ever-growing and sustainable tourism industry. Thanks for your consideration of our comments. Van Bunch Corinne Giagnorio Signal Mountain, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>I support the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft Petition.</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>We need to develop and generate new sources of energy to replace fossil fuels. My own preferences are wind and solar because of lessened harmful effects on the environment. My wife’s grandfather was a coal miner in western Indiana for more than 40 years, and died following a stroke, with compromised respiratory function. We do the residents of these impoverished mining regions no service by reopening the mines. They need new kinds of jobs and education. Are we smart and dedicated enough to help them in this direction?</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Millions of tourists enjoy the Cumberland Mountains that create thousands of jobs for Tennesseans. Tourists do not visit the mountains to see surface mining and mountaintops removed. They come because the Cumberland Mountains are renowned for phenomenal forests, rich aquatic life and outstanding outdoor recreation. Tennessee rivers and streams contain extremely high concentrations of endangered species in North America. The Bredesen petition does not affect underground mining or permits for surface mining that have already been issued. There are only 135 surface coal jobs in Tennessee. Please grant the state petition designation while allowing remining of abandoned surface mine benches (which would then be reclaimed) and road access (OSMRE’s preferred alternative) (designation of 67,326 acres); thank you. Michelle haynes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Mountain top removal as a way of mining is a bad idea. It really is a no brainer. The massive amounts of destruction in not in line with the reasons we save beautiful parcels of land for all of to enjoy in one way or another. Mountain top removal is an environmental disaster of proportions that simply are beyond mind boggling. Please do not allow it. Stop it. Do the right thing. No mountain top removal as a way of mining. Thank you.</td>
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East Tennessee and the Cumberland Mountains have been transformed into outdoor destinations at a faster rate than any other region in the country. Eliminating mountain top removal will be a step in the right direction to continue this progress. Considering the demise of coal due to natural gas and renewable energy, the economic benefits from tourism and retiree living will greatly outweigh any profits from coal. You need to support this proposition and you should promote job training and investments that will help the local communities adapt and prosper in this new paradigm.

We oppose mining on the beautiful East Tennessee mountain tops and urge OSMRE to implement this LUM proposal.

The Cumberland Mountains are renowned for phenomenal forests, rich aquatic life and outstanding outdoor recreation.

The rivers and streams contain endangered species in need of greater protection.

Millions of tourists enjoy the Cumberland Mountains that create thousands of jobs for Tennesseans. Tourists do not visit the mountains to see surface mine scaring and mountain tops removed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft Petition Evaluation Document / Environmental Impact Statement.

Wilbert and Gloria Griffith
Mountain City, Tennessee  37683

The coal industry is not a very responsible industry in cleaning up or repairing there damages to our national lands. They still have large tracks of land that have very bad scaring left from previous mining. The land in question is located between major national and state parks and reserves. So I suggest that no mining of any kind be allowed on any lands in Eastern Tennessee. Coal is no longer a necessary form of energy that is clean enough to be used in the 21st century and beyond. If solar plants were planned for these areas I might concenter that for energy production. But no mining of coal it is carbon based and unhealthy for humans to live with in this century or beyond.

I strongly support the ban on mountaintop mining on state-owned lands. I moved to east Tennessee in my 30s because of the mountains. I am now 70 and have spent many years hiking in the Cumberlands. The woods and rocks are beautiful. If the mountaintops are removed, no reclamation project could bring back their natural beauty.

Tourism is a much more viable strategy for long term economic development than mountaintop removal. There are only 135 surface coal jobs in Tennessee. I know many retirees who have moved to the Jacksboro area because they were attracted by the mountains, and on my hikes I have met many tourists who have come for the outstanding recreation the mountains provide. People will not want to visit or retire in this area with the mountaintops removed.

Please support the ban on Mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee lands Unsuitable for Mining

The overwhelming scientific consensus is that, in order to keep this planet habitable for our descendants, we need to stop mining coal and do all we can to preserve and expand forests. Considering this, it would be completely counterproductive to remove more forests in order to mine more coal. If we leave this country untouched, our grandchildren will thank us. If we strip-mine it for coal, we may well be condemning them to an ugly death. Please preserve our forests!

I don't believe we need to destroy such an irreplaceable resource. This what makes Tennessee so beautiful. I am a conservative and believe we should conserve natural things for the future.

I write to let you know that I am against surface mining on Tennessee lands. I am a native East Tennessean and just shudder when I see areas that have been impacted this way. I do not see the need for any state lands to fall to this fate. I am against surface mining and mountaintop mining. Thank you for considerations of my comments.
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<td>36</td>
<td>Mountaintop removal for mining should be forever banned in Tennessee. Removal leaves a scar on the earth that can never truly be fixed and hurts the future prospects for tourism, which is much more important to the future of our state than mining.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James S. Cotham</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1712 Emoriland Blvd.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Knoxville, Tennessee 37917</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>I support this proposal to limit coal mining. Other countries are so far ahead of the USA in non-polluting energy that also does not destroy land. We need to catch up and do the same. Coal is an old, inefficient means of energy and has leaves a permanent scar on the land and those who live in the areas. In the end, this destruction reduces tourism in these areas too. Thank you.</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>The Cumberland Mountains are renowned for phenomenal forests, rich aquatic life and outstanding outdoor recreation.</td>
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<td>The rivers and streams contain extremely high concentrations of endangered species in North America.</td>
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<td>The Bredesen petition does not affect underground mining or permits for surface mining that have already been issued.</td>
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<td>Millions of tourists enjoy the Cumberland Mountains that create thousands of jobs for Tennesseans. Tourists do not visit the mountains to see surface mining and mountaintops removed.</td>
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<td>There are only 135 surface coal jobs in Tennessee.</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Ban permanently all surface coal mining in East Tennessee. Thank you. Hunter Oppenheimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>I cannot understand why this proposal is even on the table. With the switch to natural gas and renewal energy, coal as an energy source is a dead issue, especially surfaced mined coal. TN and the office of Surface Mining should be considering strategies to lessen the impact on communities of the end coal as an energy source, rather than trying to wastefully promote it.</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>I fully support the discontinuing of surface mining in East Tennessee. I believe it permanently scares the landscape and pollutes the river and streams. The little benefit society receives is greatly out weighted by the negative results in this process. The few job loses can be made up for by increased tourism and outdoor activity, if properly promoted. Other alternative energy sources better serve society everywhere. One can not reverse the damage this procedure does. It destroys God Creation!</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>Please ban surface coal mining in East Tennessee. The aesthetic, recreational, and economic values of our beautiful area far surpass any benefit gained from surface coal mining.</td>
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<td>The need for coal is diminishing rapidly - the need for healthy ecosystems like our mountains is greatly increasing.</td>
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<td>Coal is being replaced by other (cleaner) energy sources, but we cannot recreate our mountains and streams once they have been destroyed by mining.</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>Comments on options</td>
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<td>-bad</td>
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<td>-good</td>
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<td>-ok</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>-bad</td>
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<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Not worth it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Tennessee is a beautiful state and it would be a complete shame to let this beautiful land be ruined by mining. And coal mining is especially ridiculous given the cheap natural gas that is so plentiful right now. Please protect this land.</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>To Whom it May Concern:</td>
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<td>As a resident born and raised in Middle Tennessee, with family in Knoxville, Farragut, Tullahoma, Cookeville, and Nashville, I would like to firmly state my support for this petition. I love these mountains, and the watersheds they sustain. I have seen first hand what strip mining does in other communities-Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia- the communities and land both suffer, with profits moving swiftly out of state.</td>
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<td>Our land is our heritage. Please, as our lawmakers, continue to protect the the Upper Cumberlands from surface mining.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thank You,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ellen Epley</td>
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The Tennessee LUM is being considered in direct legal conflict with the original transfer of the majority of the land involved. The Wildlife management area came to be owned (surface rights only) by the State of Tennessee as a result of a good faith transaction from a coal company that owned the property. The deed of transfer for the affected tracts clearly defines that the property's future use would be a multiple use objective. The State of Tennessee was granted surface usage rights, the timber rights were sold separately, the oil/gas rights were sold separately, and the coal rights were sold separately in several cases to individual citizens. The LUM seeks to deprive the various private mineral owners of their purchased rights to recover the resource (coal). Only in the world of oppressive government overreach could a LUM petition be filed for an area that exceeds 60,000 acres under these circumstances. What of the rights of the various owners involved within this property? The travesty of this scenario is that all of the research, findings, cumulative impact studies, environmental impact studies, etc. will all be paid for WITH TAXPAYER DOLLARS!

Furthermore, the size of this LUM petition (over 60,000 acres) should have qualified the whole thing as a frivolous request from the beginning. Did the petitioners meet the SMCRA qualified minimum criteria for such a preposterous request? I think not given the overwhelming size of the target area. How much work would be required by OSM to conduct the findings and necessary research for an area of over 60,000 acres and at what cost to the taxpayer??!! By supposing to have conducted the necessary findings work on this area and supposing to seriously consider the petition, OSM has now provided radical groups that are anti mining a perfect vehicle to petition for entire states to be declared as lands unsuitable for mining. The premise is the same for an entire state as it was for this massive "taking" in Tennessee. At the very least, OSM has inherently obligated themselves to entertain and review such ridiculous efforts all over the coal fields in the United States. The cost all borne by the unsuspecting taxpayers!!!!

Let's be clear, no serious technical person thinks that this petition was (a) valid and substantive, or (B) approvable given the large acreage and innumerable environmental variables involved. For goodness sake, the land (surface rights) was sold to the State by a COAL COMPANY, a COAL COMPANY, for multiple public uses!!! The land use for the vast majority of the area petitioned is dominated by coal mining and pre-law coal mining at that! This LUM approval is clearly a political effort by OSM to contribute their part to the ongoing WAR ON COAL and coordinate themselves with the Obama administration.

I Strongly support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

I have personally witnessed the disastrous effects of surface mining across Appalachia. We have a true gift, one of the most bio diverse areas in the world with the Appalachian Mountains. Surface mining would do nothing short of obliterating that gift forever. If we fail to protect these mountains and instead choose to open them to surface mining we will continue down a ridiculous path of economic reliance on an industry that is not sustainable in the long term and increasingly coal is becoming a bad investment globally. To be clear, this would in no way benefit the people of Tennessee whether it be workers, tourist, or the economic elite.

It always amazes me that folks who live in the areas affected by surface mining keep having to remind the mining industry and the regulatory agencies set up to manage the process that surface mining is destructive to delicate ecosystems, the vital role mountaintops play is the function of watersheds, the critical importance of keeping our fresh water streams pristine, and the destructive influence surface mining has on the health of the humans and wildlife who have to bear the cost. The best evidence we have now is that this is the type of past practices that we’re going to have to find ways to live without, for the planet's sake. Give us some credit. We're smarter than that. You are, too, if you might put good sense first over somebody’s compulsion to put profit over the public good. Don't help them along anymore.

The protection of our land is a moral issue. We must preserve the landscape, including clean air, clean water, and clean soil, for future generations. Let's not give our children an impoverished planet, including of course the landscape here in our state.
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| 51 | As concerned citizens we ask that the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Tennessee lands be protected from mining. Far too many of Tennessee's beautiful mountains and forests have been destroyed. By protecting these lands we preserve the quality of water, air and habitat for God's creatures, both human and animal. We must be good stewards of God's creation.  

Sincerely,  
Danville and Beverly Sweeton |
| 52 | Please approve Tennessee's request to declare the ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area off limits to surface coal mining.  

This would permanently protect more than 67,000 acres.  

The entire area, especially Frozen Head State Park & its surrounding area, is Tennessee's best kept secret for awesome views and hiking.  

Mining would cause irreversible damage and permanently destroy the pristine vistas. |
| 53 | I have been a regular visitor to the Upper Cumberland area for forty years, enjoying the Parks and Trails and Rivers in the area. It is past time to realize that Recreation and related activities are the real core of this area's Economy. Visitors to the four counties spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Ridgeline Mining degrades and destroys these recreational resources of the area far more than it contributes to the local economy.  

I strongly support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. The lands unsuitable designation area should cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. This will provide the best protection for the land and water quality. This represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. The Office of Surface Mining should use the best possible science and technology to identify all the ridgelines in the petition area.  

The entire petition area should be designated as "Fragile Lands", because it is rated "very high" for habitat protection. In addition, Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species. In addition, there is the impact on species living downstream of the petition area. Mining is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan; OSM's draft Environmental Impact Statement determined that the petition area contains natural resources that meet the "Fragile Lands" definition.  

Remining of old sites must be limited. It should only occur where both the state (TDEC and TWRA) and the Office of Surface Mining agree that there are significant environmental problems that can only be fixed by remining.  

Thank you. |
I support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

I believe the following points address my support:

1. The lands unsuitable designation area should cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors in order to provide the best protection for the land and water quality. This represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

2. The Office of Surface Mining should use the best possible science and technology to identify all the ridgelines in the petition area.

3. Tourism is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee and Virginia; but nobody wants to hike through a viewshed past destroyed land with polluted water. Tourism is far more important than mining to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

4. The entire petition area should be designated as "Fragile Lands", because:
   a. OSM’s draft Environmental Impact Statement contains natural resources that meet the "Fragile Lands" definition.
   b. The area is rated "very high" for habitat protection.
   c. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species. Mining is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.
   d. There is a need to account for the impact on species living downstream of the petition area.

5. Re-mining of old sites must be limited. It can only occur where both the state (TDEC and TWRA) and the Office of Surface Mining agree that there are significant environmental problems that can only be fixed by re-mining.

Thank you for considering my comments,
January 7, 2016

LUM Petition Administrative Officer
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Knoxville Field Office, 710 Locust Street
Knoxville, TN 37902
865-545-4103X149
TNLUM@osmre.gov

SUBJECT: North Cumberland Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition

To LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I greatly appreciate this opportunity to comment on the above noted subject. Since I am out of town during the hearings I would ask that you please accept these comments for the record.

As a lifelong resident of East Tennessee, I dearly love the mountains that we are blessed to enjoy. I grew up on a farm and valued the natural beauty and wonder of the mountains that were nearby. As a boy I spent time with my dad in the mountains hunting, hiking, and fishing. Those were very special times for me.

With regards to the current petition, the North Cumberland Mountains are an area I visit frequently to hike, trail run, mountain bike, and bird watch. I currently live in Knoxville and when I go to the Cumberland's I always spend money at the nearby restaurants, stores, and gas stations. Though coal mining may have had a place in the past, I strongly believe that the future of this area is in promoting the beauty of the mountains rather than extracting resources from them. Tourism accounts for far more jobs and economic benefit than coal. Some of the outings that I have completed in the Cumberland's have, unfortunately, been scarred with mountains deformed and streams tainted and discolored by coal mining operations in the past. This is unfortunate and should not be perpetuated because it will adversely affect the area's ability to market tourism.

I strongly support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgelines in the North

The North Cumberland Wildlife Refuge Area should be protected and be declared "Lands Unsuitable for Mining".

Please approve the state of Tennessee's petition to set aside more than 67,000 acres of ridgeline as "unsuitable" for surface coal mining. This would preserve habitat for hundreds of rare species, protect drinking water and provide land for recreation and wildlife dispersal. These Cumberland mountains rival the rainforest in biodiversity and are full of rare salamanders, warblers, mussels and fish.

As a Tennessee citizen and tax payer, I fully support keeping these mountains beautiful and wild--they should not be used for any type of coal mining. Why would we sacrifice these mountains to a fuel that we shouldn't be using anyway? We should keep fossil fuels in the ground and our beautiful mountains

Help the endangered animals and so no to greed.
• Visitors to the four counties spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is far more important than mining to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

• Strongly support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. The lands unsuitable designation area should cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. This will provide the best protection for the land and water quality. This represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

Please do the right thing!

Richard P. Riesz

I am writing to express my strong support for the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for ridgeline mining, including and especially those ridgelines extending to and connecting stream corridors. Especially in a WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT area, our water—which supports ALL life, should be protected to the highest degree. To allow ridgeline mining in a National Park would certainly deter tourists, who's intention are to see natural environments thriving, not struggling to maintain life. Tourism is a critical part of Tennessee’s economy; if we allow ridgeline mining here, why not the Great Smoky Mountains? Where will the line be drawn?

Visitors to the four potentially affected counties alone, spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism and conservation are far more important than mining, an industry experiencing a steady decline.

Please consider the risk this would pose to so many for the benefit of few.

To Those Who Are, I Hope, concerned:

I am unable to attend any of the public meetings on this issue but wish to make comments.

Of the alternatives submitted regarding surface coal mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, I would prefer Alternative 2, designation of the 67,326 acres as unsuitable for all surface coal mining operations. Alternative 3 is a less-desirable one because reclamation rarely, if ever, restores an area to its original condition; and road access disrupts wildlife habitat.

The Cumberland Mountains are a special place with outdoor recreation opportunities that create thousands of jobs, while there are only about 135 jobs in Tennessee that are related to surface coal mining, and endangered species. In addition, there are endangered species that would be affected by surface coal mining.

Please act to ban surface coal mining in state-owned land in Tennessee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Adelle Wood

I strongly support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

This one should be a no-brainer. More than 30 species at risk, not to mention an economic risk for recreation and to rise industry?

How is this issue even having to be petitioned? Protect our natural resources!

Please save the warbler!
66 Fragile headwaters and Wildlife Management areas should be protected for the ALL citizens of the United States, but most especially for those whose ancestral areas lie within the North Cumberland Area. For too long profit for mining and logging has bankrupted our children's future!

67 I support this proposal. I oppose mining on East Tennessee Mountain tops or any land that changes the beauty and nature of our precious resource - Earth. Thanks for your hard work on my behalf and that of my children and grand children.

68 These are my comments on the proposed designation of the ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as being "unsuitable for surface mining." This designation is requested to help protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. ☐

I have enjoyed the North Cumberland Wildlife Conservation Area and Big South with my friends, church members, and groups of Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts. It is an exceptional area for taking young and old into natural areas to swim, boat, hike and camp. The presence of mining on the ridgetop would have a detrimental impact. Our interest in going there would be affected by noise and visual disruptions. As a biologist, I am concerned about habitat impacts as well. ☐

I see designating just the ridgelines while allowing mining to continue on the rest of the wildlife management area is a reasonable compromise that allows continued access to the minerals while protecting habitat and the public's investment in recreation and tourism. The economic benefits of recreation and tourism are significantly higher than the economic benefits of surface mining. ☐

I think that the petition area should definitely be designated as "fragile lands" for the following reasons. The areas are rated very high for habitat as well as for special status for species protection. The DEIS has determined that the petition area does contain natural resources that meet the definition of "fragile lands." In particular, streams and other headwater sources are essential for long-term viability of downstream habitats. Coal mining is a prime cause of decline of 34 of the 34 aquatic special status species populations that occur in the evaluation areas. Normal permitting and reclamation cannot protect those habitats and species in the timeframe that is required to do so. ☐

While re-mining of old pre-law scars can be beneficial in limited situations, that approach certainly should be the exception rather than the rule. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine terminal problems exist and can be remedied. ☐

Thank you for consideration of these comments. I regret that I could not attend any of the public hearings due to pre-existing commitments. ☐

Best wishes
• I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area unsuitable for surface mining.

• The petition area should cover all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. This will provide the best protection for the land and water quality. This represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

• The Office of Surface Mining should use the best possible technology to identify all the ridge lines in the petition area.

• Tourism is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. The Cumberland Trail provides a great opportunity to share our amazing natural resources. However, nobody wants to hike through destroyed land with polluted water.

• Visitors to the four counties spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is far more important than mining to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

• Designating just the ridgelines in the Wildlife Management Area is a reasonable compromise. This protects our investment as taxpayers in recreation and tourism while still allowing access to minerals.

• The entire petition area should be designated as "fragile lands", because:
  o The area is rated "very high" for habitat protection.
  o Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species.
  o We need to account for the impact on species living downstream of the petition area.

• Remining of old sites must be rare. It can only occur where both the state and the Office of Surface Mining agree that there are significant environmental problems that remining can fix.

We need to see the "writing on the wall" and move away from a fossil fuel economy.

I do not think surface mining is a good use for this land! It will pollute the streams & degrade the serenity of this beautiful area that is still recovering from earlier mining activities! Personally, I have hunted, camped & hiked in this terrain for many years! More recently I helped build a section of the Cumberland Trail off Norma Road!

Please ensure no more surface mining is allowed in these counties by accepting this proposal!

AS a lifelong Tennessean who regularly visited as a youth the destroyed land and community at Coalmont, Tennessee, I strongly support this petition to declare the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area as part of the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for mining. I also know from an interlude of many years of living in West Virginia, that once an area is surface mined, it is not possible of being truly reclaimed, despite advances in technique, it can’t be restored to its original state.

Sincerely, Rev. Dr. Donald M. Steele (age 69)

AS a lifelong Tennessean who regularly visited as a youth the destroyed land and community at Coalmont, Tennessee, I strongly support this petition to declare the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area as part of the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for mining. I also know from an interlude of many years of living in West Virginia, that once an area is surface mined, it is not possible of being truly reclaimed, despite advances in technique, it can’t be restored to its original state.

Sincerely, Rev. Dr. Donald M. Steele (age 69)

As a life-long Tennessean and someone who loves the natural beauty and biodiversity of our state, I strongly oppose surface land mining. Priority must be given to the health of our citizens and the ecosystems of our state. Any short-term jobs and any minimal financial gains from this type of mining would never out-weigh the value of this land. Our state must look to the future with eyes focused on environmentally sustainable energy practices which will both protect our citizens and lands and offer long-term solutions to the challenges of climate change.
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<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>I am against mining the Cumberland Plateau’s lands. There is too much risk involved in these areas. Karst systems that contain organisms and water reserves that should be protected from acid run off, silt, and other pollution. These things can be found nowhere else on our planet. I realize that resources like timber, coal, etc are important to utilize, but not at the cost of potential destruction of pristine places. Please leave these areas untouched by mining?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I live near the Great Smoky Mountains, but I run away several times each month to the Cumberland plateau to explore and find peace away from the tourist crowd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It is a treasure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thanks for your attention and consideration of this matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dana B. Koogler</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 75 | Please preserve our beautiful plateau by restricting surface mining. |

| 76 | To Whom It May Concern: |
|    | First, I would very much like to see the comment period extended. Something that has taken this long to draft and is this voluminous will need additional time to be digested. |
|    | Regardless, this Lands Unsuitable designation does not need to be made. While there may very well be some areas within our nation that are truly unsuitable for mining, this area certainly is not. It has been mined for generations and is better for it. Some of the very things the petitioners wish to "protect" are within the petition area because of mining. Let mining continue and these lands will be even better. |
|    | Stop this before it goes any further. Deny the petition. |
|    | Thank you, |
|    | Allan E. Robinson |

<p>| 77 | As a frequent hiker in the Cumberland Plateau, I have an interest in this petition to stop or limit mining. The figures on tourism in this area seem to support the idea of further developing the area for recreation rather than continued mining. Some of the destinations in this area are not well known; thus, making them more accessible and known would increase visitors to the area and help local businesses. |</p>
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<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Hello and thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the NCWM-LUM petition. I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate as unsuitable for surface mining, all of the ridge-line corridors existing within the petition area and connecting to the stream corridors in the NCWMA. My reasons for supporting this are several and include both ecological as well as economic motivators. I appreciate the 'seed' resource potential provided by upland sites which are connected through stream corridors, to lowland sites. Successional processes are enhanced by these strategic buffer zones and upland to lowland connections. In addition, protection of headwaters from mining pollutants leads to greater protection in both short- and long-term time-frames relative to protection of other areas in the NCWMA. Based on a couple of reviews/reports including the PED/PEIS and this economic/ecological evaluation of mining in the state of TN (<a href="http://www.downstreamstrategies.com/documents/reports_publication/DownstreamStrategies-coalTN.pdf">http://www.downstreamstrategies.com/documents/reports_publication/DownstreamStrategies-coalTN.pdf</a>), it is clear mining of finite resources is not competitive with the income and revenues generated by eco-tourism, hunting, and other non-mining uses of NCWMA; all renewable revenue. These assessments note their exclusion of indirect economic benefits of conservation and costs of mining (see below). I could not find a TEA of mining in this area. I did find the costs to the state of TN of mining to be estimated at 540K/yr and $115M/yr (all 2009 USD) for the NCWMA. The former 540K/yr estimate does not include external costs of GHGe, required restoration of streams and waterways (often payed through tax revenues), and loss of recreation dollars due to habitat loss from mining. In comparison, the renewable direct revenue of ecotourism in the NCWMA includes 177.4M/yr visitor fees $10 - $16M/yr in tax revenues, and ~1600 jobs. From an economic perspective mining of coal is nearly a defunct industry in this WMA and I appreciate that even the low number of mining operations and employees supported by them can significantly impact relatively few families in an area already suffering from some of the lowest incomes in the US and a 20% unemployment rate. Thus, this compromise allows access to mineral mining (retaining employment in the mining industry) while protecting critical habitat replenishment (seed) zones. Taxpayer's (such as myself) who use the area frequently and pay double through direct recreation and tourism fees and through taxes to support active management and strategic planners, plus a diversity of other staff also I have spent many days wandering the beautiful Cumberland Mountains in search of birds, mammals, wildflowers, etc. and would like to voice my support for the modified alternative four: designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridge line corridors in the petition area extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Thank you for your time. Than Boves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>I am writing to express my strong support for the State of Tennessee's request to designate all the ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. In 2016, this no longer makes sense economically. It has never made sense otherwise. We now have far less destructive options. Let's move on.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>I firmly believe that there should NOT be further coal mining activity on public land in this country, especially on ridgetops in the beautiful Cumberland Mountains. Let's keep our forests and streams intact and not damage critical wildlife habitat for animals such as the Cerulean Warbler. Sincerely, Doug Raybuck</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Hi, my name is April Byrge and I am the legacy of six generations of Tennesseans. My family has lived in the area now designated as the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area for over 100 years. I am writing today in favor of the petition to declare the NCWMA as lands unsuitable for mining. Growing up in the mountains of East Tennessee inspired a passion in me for lifelong learning about nature and conservation. I also saw the aftermath of strip mining and clear-cutting in the sulfur and other chemicals in our streams and well water, and the decline and change of plant species within our forests. Is it worth it to remove whatever valuables our mountains might house just for money? Can we in good faith destroy these mountains that have been here for billions of years? Will we continue to let coal companies devastate these Appalachians in the name of temporary, dangerous jobs?

These mountains mean more to me than just dollar bills. They are my inspiration and my encouragement. They are home.

Please protect these lands by declaring the North Cumberland WMA unsuitable for mining. I appreciate your time and concern.

I grew up in this area and fully support this petition. We're proud to be descended from coal miners, but the future will not require coal. We must face that fact and begin planning an alternate economy. The area will be better suited to nature tourism and for that to be a success, the mountains must be allowed to recover.

I oppose the LUM petition.

Mining is done responsible now. And the sites are reclaimed afterwards. Often leaving the areas in better shape.

I strongly support the state of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. The lands unsuitable designation area should cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. This will provide the best protection for the land and water quality. This represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Additionally, the Office of Surface Mining should use the best possible science and technology to identify all the ridgelines in the petition area.

Tourism is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. The Cumberland Trail provides a great opportunity to share our amazing natural resources. Visitors to the four counties spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is far more important than mining to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

The entire petition area should be designated as "Fragile Lands", because:
- The area is rated "very high" for habitat protection.
- Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species. Mining is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.
- We need to account for the impact on species living downstream of the petition area.
- OSM contains natural resources that meet the "Fragile Lands" definition.

Therefore remining of old sites must be limited. It can only occur where both the state (TDEC and TWRA) and the Office of Surface Mining agree.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.
To Whom It May Concern:

I am fortunate to have a view of the Cumberland Escarpment from my home on Black Oak Ridge, yet the view is marred by the extensive and visually evident scarring left by surface mining, including an area which was mined by ridge top removal. I urge that the Office of Surface Mining grant Tennessee's petition to protect the ridge line in and near the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Big South Fork Recreation Area for the following reasons:

(1) The coals mined in Tennessee are typically high in sulfur and ash content, and are therefore less desirable for use as fuel due to the increased difficulty for users to meet current and likely future Clean Air Act combustion emissions limits. This impacts the economic viability of these coals, especially when considered against the continuing reduction in the use of coal as a fuel for industrial and electric generation facilities.

(2) The forests, ridges, and valleys of the Cumberland Plateau are far more important to the visual, ecological, and recreational value of these lands than any economic gain mining may offer. While there may be a short-term (a few years) increase in local mining employment, these gains will likely be offset by losses in tourist and recreation revenue, as well as jobs from these sectors. The economic effects are limited to a relatively small portion of the local population over a short period, but the scars will last essentially forever.

(3) The visual impacts are not the only negative. Rehabilitation of the mined lands, including prevention of surface and ground water pollution, is an expensive, long-term, and uncertain effort, the cost of which must be counted against the economic gains of mining. Further, federal and state budgets and staff for the oversight of mine operations and safety are already stretched too far, and it is very likely that violations of environmental and safety regulations will occur. These will have further negative impacts on the local and regional environment and economy.

I therefore strongly urge that the permits for surface mining on federal lands be denied.

Sincerely,
I believe this is an excellent proposal for several reasons. First off, the biggest threat to life as we know it on this earth is the changing composition of our atmosphere. We must rapidly learn to leave fossil fuels in the ground rather than burning them up and releasing pollutants into our atmosphere. Although a small drop in the bucket this proposal represents the first stages of a paradigm shift in how we think about our energy resources and is absolutely a step in the right direction.

Secondly, this area represents valuable headwater streams to the water sources of many people in Tennessee and beyond. Protecting these areas from mining will be another layer of protection for our drinking water. It will also help keep these hillsides and ridge lines wooded which will aid in preventing flooding and washouts downstream. This not only protects drinking water but also aids in preventing erosion.

Thirdly, coal production in the Appalachian region is in secular decline. After centuries of mining, the easy to access coal is severely depleted. What remains is costly to extract and capital intensive. These resources are already barely economically feasible to extract. With the shift to electricity production from natural gas and renewable resources coal is the clear loser. As old coal fired plants are taken offline the demand for coal will steadily drop around the world. This reduces the opportunity costs of not mining these areas.

Fourth, this area is one of the treasures of the Eastern US. I have spent much time in this region and am always amazed at the seclusion of these mountains. I don't know of any other place east of the Mississippi river where one can stand on a mountain top and see no trace of human activity in all directions. As our country continues to grow places like these are becoming increasingly rare. Maintaining the natural beauty of these hilltops is much more valuable to the heritage of our state than the coal and the minimal number of mining and logging jobs created through extractive industries. As time passes this will become more and more true.

Finally, this is the best way to ensure the economic future of this region. Coal and timber jobs may seem like a better economic option in the short run, but this is clearly not the case in the long run. Coal

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridge line corridors in the petition area extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

This area is valuable to Tennessee’s outdoor recreation and tourism industries. It is personally special to many Tennesseans like myself who enjoy outdoor activities. Once marred, the natural resource is not replaceable.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
I strongly support the State of Tennessee's request to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridge line corridors in the petition area extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

Remining of old pre-law scars can be beneficial in some limited situations, but it should be the exception rather than the rule. Remining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist.

An old highwall on a revegetated bench that's not causing water quality problems or endangering the public should not be an excuse to mine out additional undisturbed mountainside within the petition area.

Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region.

Tennessee's coal is NOT needed by the US energy producers - it has too much sulfur to be used by TVA and sending it to China only adds to climate change and environmental pollution.

I am encouraged by OSMRE's endorsement of Alternative 3 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the North Cumberland WMA LUM petition. I think Alternative 4 would be even better, since it brings another 8800 acres under protection.

But in neither alternative is it made sufficiently clear that ridgeline protection must be extended downslope to the lowest elevation, which would be at the level of streams. This would ensure wildlife migration corridors through the whole local range of elevation, with associated changes in climate and vegetation.

Another important point is that any proposed re-mining projects must be very carefully assessed and monitored, through joint oversight by OSMRE and appropriate state agencies, with opportunities for public input. The chief reason for re-mining should be chronic acid mine drainage. Eliminating highwalls is not in itself a sufficient reason. My experience in hiking and fossil collecting in the area has shown me that many of these highwalls have been there so long that slumping and talus slopes, with some volunteer revegetation, are starting to soften and obscure them. Of course they're not as beautiful as natural mountainsides, but nature has already begun to repair the damage and there's no compelling reason to go back and tear it all up again. Cases where there's a plausible danger of falling rock can be addressed on an individual basis.

The state of Tennessee has created a tremendous natural and recreational resource in the North Cumberland WMA. Surface mining of coal is now down to 135 employees in the entire state, according to the EIS (ch 4 p 122). It's probably not going to go back up. Electrical utilities like TVA are phasing out coal plants in favor of natural gas, and renewable energy sources have only begun their rise to
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| 91 | I support the state of TN's request to designate all ridgeline corridors in the petition area extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA.  
  
  sincerely,  
  
  Kate Friedman  
  Tennessee Ornithological Society  
  Memphis Chapter President                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 92 | I recreate all over east Tennessee, including the North Cumberland area and believe this will protect the land and water quality, as well as the communities surrounding these areas.  
  
  I've seen areas devastated by mining (The 2008 ash spill in Kingston, TN; the 2013 chemical spill from coal power on the Elk River in Charleston, WV; the 2014 Dan River ash spill in Virginia; ecological/topographical devastation from mining in Appalachia, VA), and know that it has the potential to harm our water ways, ecology (habitats for various species), but can also harm tourism to the central Appalachian region. I'm told that tourism to this area is of larger economic value than mining.  
  
  I support the request to designate the ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area unsuitable for mining. This should cover all ridge lines extending to and connecting with streams. |
| 93 | Please do not sacrifice our most valuable resources for short term monetary gains that do not withstand the test of time. There is no question that these types of energy sources are non-renewable and unsustainable. Denial does not change the truth we must respond instead of react, now is our chance. |
| 94 | These areas must be kept free from mining                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 95 | Please say no to surface mining. This is a unique and fragile environment that may never recover from this type of assault. The people deserve to have their public lands protected for future generations and for the health and well being of our entire planet. Please do the right thing and say no to surface mining. |
| 96 | Enough, already!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 97 | Please protect our natural resource. Please keep safe the jobs that people garner from the tourism industry that stem from the unmarred natural beauty of the mountains. Please think about the way other parts of our country have been marred, even destroyed, by short-sighted policies that did not take into account how important keeping the land pristine is. |
| 98 | I believe it is a good move to protect this area and many others of the eastern mountain regions from mining. We should take the opportunity to create even more jobs with alternative technological energy sources that are easily and more safely attainable, such as solar energy.  
  
  We not only need to protect this area for its fragile environmental reasons, but also for the health and safety of the human race. Also, being an archaeologist, the Appalachian region, especially in the Cumberland area, contains great amounts of prehistoric cultural significance and information that can also create jobs based on further inquiry of human nature, biology, social scientific research, and progressive studies of human life and well-being.  
  
  I insist that this area be of more sustainable long lasting use through tourism and sustainable living practices.  
  
  Thank you for this opportunity to write.  
  Robyn                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>The array of valuable habitats and wildlife qualify these lands as “fragile lands” and that new mining would be incompatible with the state’s plans or programs for protection of these publicly-owned lands. This areas are better suited and will give more value to everyone being used for recreation, tourism, and continued habitat management. These are better uses for the future of the North Cumberland area and its role in the local economies. I am a native Tennessean that now lives in Wisconsin. My husband was born and grew up in Roane County in Harriman. He has taken me camping and hiking in these mountains. Please preserve these areas and don’t let them be used for any mining which would be detrimental in so many ways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Please protect the land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Mining is unsuitable for these areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>I am totally against any further mining explorations or operations anywhere in eastern Tennessee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Stop Mountain Top Coal Removal in Tennessee - - and in the whole of Appalachia!!! Our watersheds are wrecked. Our cancer numbers are sky-rocketing. Our future depends on our mountains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>These mountains and rivers are special and deserve our protection. I recreate in the area 3 or 4 times a year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>I am against mining in these areas due to the environmental impact it has on this very pristine and unique landscape!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Please disallow surface mining in the areas outlined in this proposal. Tennessee is a beautiful state, and as a country, we should be moving away from nonrenewable resources like coal. Surface mining destroys business and environment in the state of Tennessee and shouldn't be allowed. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
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<td>107</td>
<td>I have hiked hundreds of hours in the Smokey Mountains and surrounding areas. Please recognize the value of this area and continue to protect it into the future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>I am in favor of the protection of our beautiful mountains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Susanne Levi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Please prevent surface mining/mountaintop removal of our beloved TN mountains!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Please protect our Cumberland Plateau!! No more surface mining!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Surface mining destroys valuable resources of trees, water quality, and scenery- among many others. We cannot not be sacrificing our mountains to support a the fossil fuel system. Short term impacts include health issues among inhabitants of these mountains and long term, a collapse in the ecological viability of our world. We know this, and it's time to stop taking the easy route.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>I used to work for OSMRE from 98 to 2004. Even tho I worked in HR I was fortunate to see the wonderful work that OSMRE could have been doing, the dedicated inspectors and mounting political pressure that OSMRE was under from the states and the Bush Administration. I witnessed how OSMRE was under constant budgetary, personnel, and authority pressure. So hang in there do what you can save as much beautiful landscape as possible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Please protect these areas. I grew up there, nearby, in Greene County TN. It's such a special place, almost untouched since the Scots-Irish settled there in the early 1700's. I believe God gave us dominion over our environment, but not to pillage and destroy, but to nurture and preserve. What temporal good is worth more than sustaining this beauty for our children?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Please do not mine our mountains!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Sign Petition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I support classifying our Tennessee ridges as unsuitable for mining. I do this on aesthetic grounds as well as economics.

Too much of the skyline of our mountains have already been destroyed in Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and Tennessee in the name of coal. These mountains, the soil, forests, streams, and people will never be reclaimed. The companies that ruin our mountains make a little profit and leave behind a disaster for us to deal with and look at.

Economically, the destruction of Tennessee's most valuable asset, tourism, cannot be tolerated. The few jobs that coal creates do not justify the enormous loss in attractiveness to people who come to this state to enjoy our natural beauty. The small amount of coal that is mined just isn't worth it. The Epstein study done at Harvard shows that when the all the externals associated with coal extraction, processing, transportation, combustion, and human health are accounted for from the use of coal as an energy source that it is more expensive (2X to 3X) than any energy source.

Small economic gain does not justify the total and permanent destruction that results from surface coal mining.

As a native of Morgan County, Tennessee, I witnessed firsthand in the 1970s the adverse impact of surface strip mining in the Cumberland Mountains of East Tennessee. Although I now live in Nashville, I still have family in Morgan and adjacent counties and return often. I love the mountains there; they are a part of my soul and make me who I am. We often refer to this part of Tennessee as God's Country due to its isolation and unspoiled beauty. I was baptized by my grandfather, now deceased, in a creek near the Catoosa WMA in Morgan County. This land is sacred to me. Please do NOT allow surface mining or mountaintop removal in the North Cumberland WMA Tennessee Lands. Thank you.

I support the petition to protect this corridor by prohibiting mining.

There are many documented reasons to protect Tennessee Lands from mining including: climate warming, economic tourism and health of our citizens. I would like to believe that the people in charge of our public lands would care to preserve them for our future citizens.

The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area should be designated unsuitable for mining, as its value to the people of East Tennessee and its tourism industry far outweigh the value of adding mining operations.

Protect these mountains for tourism and our children.

Please protect these mountains for future generations and do not allow surface mining. We visited this area with out young daughter last summer. It is a beautiful, awe-inspiring landscape and it would be wrong to ruin it for other families and young kids who have not yet experienced this special place.

I am writing to urge the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to declare the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area to be land unsuitable for mining. There are many reasons why I support this effort. First, as a person of faith, I believe in the importance of good stewardship of God's good gift of creation. Second, I have spent time in the Big South Fork National Recreation Area on numerous occasions and believe the Cumberland Mountains area is one of the most beautiful places in a beautiful state, and that such places should be preserved. Any limited short-term benefits of extracting coal from that area is far outweighed by the enjoyment of people in the beauty of that part of the state now and for future generations. I also believe that the wild creatures and plants that we share this bountiful earth with should be given a chance to flourish. And finally, as a nation, and indeed as a world, we have to be moving away from energy sources, such as coal, that harm the environment to clean, renewable sources. Thank you for your consideration. Rev. Paul Slentz
The mountains of northeast Tennessee are renowned for their beauty; even now, having lived elsewhere in the US and abroad, I get emotional just thinking about them. Others will make economic arguments for their preservation; they'll say that tourism is a vital industry, that people come from miles around to see the beauty I'm talking about and that while they're in the area they spend money. That is probably true - I'm not an economist - but I want to say something else: that a mountain can't be put back together once it's been decimated by mining. If these lands aren't mined, there will be no permanent loss to the natural world or to human society; we'll use other sources of energy to meet our daily needs. But if we mine these mountains for coal, they'll be gone forever - all that beauty and biodiversity (and yeah, sure, those tourism dollars) permanently diminished or destroyed, just to keep the wheels spinning a little while longer. The kind of short-sighted decision that trades permanent benefits for temporary ones is a hugely mistaken one. Don't mine these mountains - it's not worth it. Not to the p

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area unsuitable for surface mining. I believe this is justified for several reasons that are important to Tennessee's financial and environmental future.

First, is protection of water quality. In spite of past mining and the damage it has done, these lands still have the capacity to heal themselves to a significant extent. The sooner we protect these affected waterways, the sooner we'll reap the benefits of tourism, as well as fishing and hunting and other outdoor activities.

We know that visitors to the counties affected spend over $170 million per year in these communities, supporting many jobs. These economic benefits far outweigh those of further mining in the affected area.

Other wildlife will benefit from the prevention of further mining of these fragile lands. Numerous species are in decline as a result of coal mining.

Remining of old sites should only occur where both the state and the Office of Surface Mining agree that there are significant environmental problems that remining can fix.

Thank you for accepting my comments,

Ronald Shrieves

I say "NO" to surface mining. I see the tragedy caused by it in Eastern Kentucky, and beg you to protect our mountains. "NO" to surface mining.

Please please don't mine these areas. We need to preserve our parks and nature areas. I'm not signing this because I have been going to these areas for as long as I can remember but because we need to preserve the beauty of nature and not to mention we have been over using our resources for far to long now. I'm sure you all probably know this but this could possibly endanger vital ecosystems. I mean what beneficial effects could this really have anyway? If you mine these areas I'm sure what ever you mine will most likely be used in a way that will produce hazardous by products for our already depleting ozone and you would be destroying another beautiful place that is and should be a constant reminder of how lucky we are as humans to have a planet that if nothing else can sustain us without mining and depleting the earth's natural resources. If we allow this then we allow humanity itself to ultalmly be destroyed. My name is Marissa Mooney and I support not mining this area or any nature area for that matter.
These areas are unsuitable for surface mining.

We are against ridge top mining because it leaves unattractive gashes in our beautiful mountains. Our beautiful mountains are enjoyed by residents daily. Our beautiful mountains are enjoyed by tourist frequently for many and occasionally for others. The tourist business adds to our economy in many ways.

We are also against ridge top mining because of erosion and runoff problems created. The runoff affects the quality of water of ground water and may affect underground water as well.

Beverley and Katherine Gooch

I have been to this area many times and love the beauty of it. Haven't we destroyed enough land and natural beauty of our country? Our natural resources have been exported and pillaged since white men found this magnificent land. Stop this madness. Leave something for future generations.

I support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. The lands unsuitable designation area should cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. This will provide the best protection for the land and water quality. This represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

The economic future of Central Appalachia is now more important than ever, as coal prices plummet. Tourism is a critical part of the economic future for this area and for rural counties in Tennessee. Visitors to the four counties in the area in question spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is far more important than mining to the current and future economy of Tennessee. No one wants to hike through an area that has been decimated and polluted by mining.

• The entire petition area should be designated as "Fragile Lands", because:
  o The area is rated "very high" for habitat protection.
  o Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species. Mining is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.
  o We need to account for the impact on species living downstream of the petition area.
  o OSM’s draft Environmental Impact Statement determined that the petition area contains natural resources that meet the "Fragile Lands" definition.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Preserve the Cumberland Plateau region for the people of this country. This land is not suitable for mining. Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems. This area is a beautiful place for people to enjoy nature. Tourism-related jobs in the Cumberland Plateau region alone supported 1,420 jobs. In 2012, tourism brought more than $177 million in to the four-county region included in the petition.

There has been the devastation of mountaintop mining in W. Virginia...Don't permit the same for Tenn.
We need these mountains dearly to sustain life. We all depend on the ecosystem services of this Earth to sustain any sort of survival. The money and goods that would come from the mining is absolutely out of the question and can never make up for the health and vitality that these ecosystems will continue to support for the animals, the humans, and the environmental stability as a whole. We have done so much damage to our environment that is putting our existence at an incredible risk; we have the knowledge and technology to live in a way that is in union with the ecosystems of this earth. We have the opportunity to change our ways and live life differently that will ensure a healthy and strong life presently now and for future generations. It starts with each and every one of us to make the decision to choose compassion and truth over greed and illusion. I send many blessings that the space for this will be found within the heart and brought to action to ensure protection over the dear ecosystems that sustain all life.

As a permanent Tennessee resident now teaching in Arizona, I'd like to write to assert the following:

- Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and,
- Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

sincerely,
Sara E. Sams

My vote is for the preservation of our mountains. For us, our way of life, the environment, our children, and the world. A precedent will be set with this decision, let's make it one of responsible stewardship.

Strip mining would ruin our eco-system as well as the beauty of this area. We should not sell out what keeps our state and country something to be revered for mere profits.

Hello! As an avid hiker, I have been blessed to experience the beauty of these mountains and ranges up close with my family who live in North Georgia and North Florida. It would be a crime committed on future generations to destroy these ancient mountains with callous coal mining. These natural lands need to be protected so that the wonder that they create can be experienced by others! Thank you for saving these lands from unchecked and unnecessary development!

East TN's North Cumberland lands are entirely unsuitable for removal. Strip mining is dangerous enough in uppopulated areas, let alone in our culturally pivotal mountainous landscape. Please do not allow harm to the ecosystem of our state. Biologically significant species of birds, fish, snakes, and other animals and plants could all suffer endangerment and extinction if strip mining is allowed to happen. The relatively low amount of usable commodities to be mined in our area is not worth the expense and irreparable damage. These mountains are older than many geological features in our nation, and should be protected as such. No one has a right to destroy them.

I am writing to urge the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to declare the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area to be land unsuitable for mining. There are many reasons why I support this effort. First, as a person of faith, I believe in the importance of good stewardship of God's good gift of creation. Second, I grew up in the Cumberland Mountains area and it is one of the most beautiful places in a beautiful state, and that such places should be preserved. Any limited short-term benefits of extracting coal from that area is far outweighed by the enjoyment of people in the beauty of that part of the state now and for future generations. I also believe that the wild creatures and plants that we share this beautiful earth with should be given a chance to flourish. And finally, as a nation, and indeed as a world, we have to be moving away from energy sources, such as coal, that harm the environment to clean, renewable sources. Thank you for your consideration.

Heather Bennett
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<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>Please preserve these lands for recreation and tourism. We do not want to see these beautiful mountains destroyed for mountain top removal mining, which only yields resources and jobs for a very brief span of time as compared to the benefit of preserving these lands. Not only are they beautiful and ecologically fragile - their beauty brings in a large part of the economy for this area via tourism. Coal mining is not worth it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Please do not mine these beautiful mountains!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143</td>
<td>Please do not allow mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. As a society, we need to be finding renewable sources of energy rather than relying on plundering the earth for polluting, inefficient fossil fuels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>I am for no surface mining of the Cumberland mountains in Tennessee!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>as most of the area is of the same glacier deposit of trees from everywhere north .. use this resource to re-establish the already damaged coal regions eco system for future preservation of all forms of the original biosphere... we are only now about to have the opportunity to replant the american chestnut... the best railroad material to refer to as a reward more valuable than coal....“log lasting lumber”</td>
</tr>
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<td>146</td>
<td>I am in favor of the State plan to designate North Cumberland Wildlife Refuge as unsuitable for mining. I believe this area should be designated as fragile land and that it has endured enough damage from previous mining activity. There are many diverse habitats which support numerous wildlife species. Many of the species of flora and fauna are considered threatened and coal mining is the primary cause of this problem. The region is also a watershed for the surrounding communities as well as a source of tourism dollars and jobs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>NO TO SURFACE MINING! NO NO NO!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>Please do not ruin this pristine mountain land. People visit the area because it's raw and untouched by environmental damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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| 149 | Dear sirs, or Madame:  
I do not want this area to be changed at all, because of it's long term revenue potential. The potential is people who enjoy the outdoors and pay money to be a part of this beauty. Year after year people will come to this protected area, not if it's mined and reclaimed. Who would want that in their back yard? I live in Indiana, but for years I travel to Tennessee due to it's geological and biodiversity of land. Do not tear out more of what people enjoy.  

Sincerely,  
Edward Laughlin |
| 150 | We regularly visit Nemo, big south fork park and frozen head with our 4 children and couldn't imagine going a summer without this. Our generation, and the next NEED to have our wildlife to visit and appreciate. So many memories here. |
| 151 | I have spent my whole life 31yrs. Experiencing all of what Tennessee has to offer and it would be devastating to be able to visit big south fork anymore. It is where I plan to teach my son about all the different types of trees, how to survive a week or more in the woods. Our children need wildlife instead of the Internet indoors. |
| 152 | Please do not strip mine the mountains. The benefit of minerals and less than 200 jobs is meager and temporary compared to the natural beauty and the 1400 jobs supported by the tourism to see that beauty. |
| 153 | The Cumberland Plateau is non-expendable, not only for the vital link it plays in the Eco-system, but because Tennessee's beauty attracts tourism. In this age of dwindling jobs, Tennesseans need every chance to earn a living that we can get. Please protect the Cumberland. |
| 154 | I support the League of Women Voters on its stand on the North Cumberland Wildlife Management. Also want to support Alternative 4 |
| 155 | The land is ours to care for and pass on to future generations. Strip mining destroys that. Tourism offers more sustainable jobs in greater numbers than mining does and is essential to a strong economic foothold in the 21st century. |
| 156 | The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area in Tennessee is unsuitable for mining. The land is too fragile and it puts the nearby aquatic resources at risk. Trout are at risk just like the Cherokee National Forest lands were two decades ago. I believe it was in court for forty years. I think that land that belongs to all of us is too precious to put at risk in order to make a profit in the private sector. It is not ethical to use public lands for private profit. Please protect our lands and resources for the future. |
| 157 | I ask the Office of Surface Mining to ban surface mining in East Tennessee. The destructive effects of surface mining in the Cumberland Mountain areas will include:  
Toxins being released into drinking water, flying rock and blasting detritus displaced into communities, flooding and landslides as the natural topography of the area is removed, and coal sludge and slurry releases - including failed impoundments breaking and breaching sludge into adjacent areas. Also, tourism will be utterly destroyed when the unique Cumberland forests, mountains, streams and landscape are displaced. The economy of East Tennessee relies on tourism. The loss of tourism will have an irrevocable economic hit to thousands of people. Thank your for reviewing my comments. |
| 158 | We are writing in support of our beautiful Tennessee mountains. We totally endorse our state’s request to ban surface mining on all of the ridge line corridors in the petition area. In addition, we support a lifting of a ban on surface mining ONLY when there is a consensus between the state and OSMRE that the environmental and safety benefits outweigh the adverse effects.  

Thank you, Catherine and Bruce Henschen |
<p>| 159 | The use of our natural resources for our energy is vital. |</p>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>What creative means we chance to use in leaving mountains and their views, to find employment other places aside from timeless mountain faces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Save our mountains and their tops</td>
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<td></td>
<td>For present and the future: stop!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161</td>
<td>I support request to prohibit mining in the area under discussion, not only for preservation purposes, but also to discourage further coal mining in Tennessee because of the unhealthy effects of the mined product itself.</td>
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<td>162</td>
<td>As a resident of East Tennessee, I am in full support of this petition.</td>
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<tr>
<td>163</td>
<td>Please preserve the natural beauty and wildlife of our state for the enjoyment and well-being of generations to come and for the current important tourist business.</td>
</tr>
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<td>164</td>
<td>Comment re the TN Petition to designate North Cumberland lands unsuitable for mining</td>
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<td>In 2010, the State of Tennessee petitioned the office of Surface Mining to designate a 1200 foot wide corridor extending along the ridgelines of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. While I strongly support this initiative, the proposed corridor is too narrow to afford the necessary protection sought and which is necessary to protect important headwaters, geologic features, scenic vistas and to provide the necessary wildlife transit corridor. Clearly, it was the intention of the State to provide all these important factors in this designation.</td>
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<td>The proposed alternatives all include provision to reopen the orphan mined areas. This is justified to provide jobs and to support the area's economy. This is an invalid and misleading conclusion. In fact, the US coal industry in general is in serious decline as coal is replaced by other lower cost and renewable energy sources. This is especially true in TN where the cost of regulating the mining industry now exceeds the state revenue it generates. Therefore, these orphaned mine areas should be reclaimed as required and no further mining activity allowed on them.</td>
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<td>A much higher and more economically beneficial purpose will result from the petition: enhanced tourism in the area. The Wildlife Management Area and the Cumberland Trail provide great and valuable tourist attractions, including multiple uses such as hiking, hunting and fishing. These features provide significant economic values which mining greatly diminishes.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rather than opening the old mines, these sites should be carefully and completely reclaimed and protected. Doing so will enhance the current and future value and economic contribution of these lands thru tourism. Rather than allowing a clearly decreasing industry to damage these lands, they must be designated, correctly, as unsuitable (and economically) unsuitable for mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>165</td>
<td>I fully support the prevention of surface mining for the North Cumberland Mountains. Clean water, abundant wildlife and tourism job opportunities are extremely important for our area.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Comment 1: I support the Alternative 4 presented in the draft EIS modified with explicit controls that re-mining only be allowed in situations where there is consensus between the State and OSMRE that the site-specific environmental and/or safety benefits outweigh the adverse effects of mining in an area otherwise designated unsuitable for mining.

Only Alternative 4 covers the complete ridgeline area as intended by petitioners. Reduced coverage of Alternative 3 was apparently a GIS mapping mistake.

Comment 2: I attended two of the local public hearings on the TNLUM petition and it was apparent that the majority of attendees did not realize, in spite of the Powerpoint introduction, that OSMRE supported the petitioners' allegation that the petition area qualified as "fragile lands". I believe this misunderstanding is primarily due to the "Conclusion" section of the draft EIS in Volume 1, pg. v and Volume 1, pg. 2-40. I would respectfully suggest that the Conclusion section (excerpted below from EIS) be re-written, as follows, to more closely reflect OSMRE's findings as written in their detailed analyses in Chapter 2 and as presented in the Powerpoint introduction at the public hearings.

1) Remove the last sentence [bracketed] below. (30CFR762.10 is also a typo..it's 762.11)
2) Add the additional critical habitats portion of the 30 CFR § 762.5 "fragile lands" definition (ADDED AND CAPITALIZED below).
3) Change the [[double-bracketed]] portion of the second sentence to read "Thus, the petition area meets the definition of fragile lands as described by 30 CFR § 762.5."

CONCLUSION (found in Vol. 1, pg. 2-40 and Vol. 1, page v)
After reviewing all information available relevant to primary allegation (2), the OSMRE has determined that the record supports a conclusion that the petition area or areas adjacent to it contain valuable fish and wildlife habitat, AND CRITICAL HABITATS FOR ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES OF ANIMALS OR PLANTS, that could be significantly damaged by surface coal mining operations in the petition area, specifically as it relates to forest-dependent birds such as the cerulean warbler and plants such as the Ozark bunchflower and pale corydalis. [[Thus, portions of the area meet the definition of fragile lands as described by 30 CFR § 762.5]]. The OSMRE has also determined that the elk viewing tower is fragile land because it provides recreational value due to high environmental quality and could be

Sir/madams,

It is finally time to let coal go by the wayside. While it fueled the industrial revolution, any sensible person now knows that it is our dirtiest carbon based fuel, despite it being cheap. Time to move on. They are fracking everything in sight, oil is at it's lowest cost/barrel in a decade, so fuel is not the issue. What jobs this type of mining provides is temporary. Nothing lasts forever, except the vistas that have been there for millennia and will be there for many more if we leave it alone. Once the mountain is destroyed, it's gone forever.

Leave these mountains alone. They belong to all of us.

Respectfully,

Ron Hoff
Clinton, TN

A large portion of economy of East Tennessee is rooted on tourism and not fossil fuel extraction. Water quality in mountainous areas deteriorates drastically when mountain tops and ridge tops are removed to expose coal. Protect our economic, environmental, and physical health while doing the right thing.

To whom it may concern:
To whom it may concern:

I support the proposed ban on mining on North Cumberland Lands designated as Unsuitable For Mining.

Thank You.

William W. Murphy

January 18, 2016

Office of Surface Mining
U. S. Department of the Interior

Subject: Petition to Protect Tennessee's North Cumberland Mountains from Ridgetop Surface Mining

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been made aware of the request by the State of Tennessee to designate as unsuitable for ridgetop surface mining a four-county area in the north Cumberland mountains. I would like to add my name to those who have already considered this important issue and who hope, as I do, that you will be reviewing and granting this designation.

None of the arguments that I have heard in favor of ridgetop mining ring true to me in light of the surface mined areas I have observed in Tennessee and contiguous states. I am not convinced that the permanent sacrifice of the topography - ridges and streams - is worth the paltry income actually realized by the local community. Nor do I believe that areas reclaimed after surface mining will ever become again the nourishing habitat that currently sustains multiple diverse species of flora and fauna.

From an economic standpoint, surface mining does not employ as many workers as deep mining does because most surface mining is accomplished through the use of heavy equipment and dynamite. Secondly, destruction of ridgetops and pollution of streams - their headwaters and waterfalls - puts an end to outdoor recreational activities that attract enthusiasts from all over the southeast. Statistics indicate that tourists increasingly seek the unparalleled exhilaration and/or spiritual uplift that the experience of preserved undisturbed and wilderness areas, provides. The money spent by travelers who consider these areas as "destinations" goes directly into the local economy and promotes community development in counties that can use it.

The ecological impact of ridgetop surface mining on the subject fragile environment is calamitous. The
Dear Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement,

Let me strongly urge you to grant to Tennessee the ability to declare the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for Mining.

This is valuable land with a complex and rich ecosystem.

We all know that the forest ecosystems of the Eastern US are under stress. It is our responsibility to protect the remaining viable forests from further destruction.

We are almost at a tipping point at which habitat loss through mining, careless logging and development, in combination with climate change, can bring devastating loss to the natural environment.

Thank you,

Elizabeth K Williams, MD

PLEASE PROTECT & SAVE our mountains!!!! it MATTERS to people like me, a concerned citizen! tru

Save mountains, streams, homes, air and the soul of the Tennessee mountains, my home state.

The ridgeline corridors within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement should be off-limits for future surface mining on the grounds that the array of valuable habitats and wildlife qualify these lands as "fragile lands." New mining would be incompatible with the state's plans or programs for protection of these publicly-owned lands. It's the right thing to do.

It is imperative that we protect our natural resources. Please protect these mountains.

Having lived, hunted and fished in the area and have seen the destruction of vegetation, land and wildlife done by previous mining I am totally against any additional or new mining.

Better use of the land can be made, especially since additional carbon release through mining and burning of the coal from mining in on the decline, I hope.

Dear OSMRE Representative:

I am writing in support of protecting our TN lands from damaging mining practices. My parents (my father is now 102 years old and my mother since passed) educated us on the issues of how over-mining, or poor mining practices, damage the environment and make the state a less desirable place to live.

Please strongly consider banning mining ridges, and strip mining. As I understand the statistics, and as much as my heart goes out to mining families, the state derives more from parks and recreation than mining; the environment is not compromised; and we are not contributing to global warming through use of coal.

I am a Detroit girl, and I saw and experienced first hand what happens to a community when jobs leave. However, I am also an educator. And that is the answer: Help families transition from a waning industry and move into more sustainable work areas. I support helping families financially with living expenses and with schooling for a limited number of years so that they can regain their ability to support themselves and contribute back to society. I would pay more taxes for this benefit to them and to us.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my heartfelt perspective, and thank you for your work on our behalf.

Mary
My recommendation: Alternative 4 with a modification. This most closely accomplishes the State of Tennessee's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

Some other points must be made:

[1] We use the areas for hiking and birding but also enjoy the unspoiled vistas; the ridgeline mining would deleteriously impact and destroy the inherent beauty and destroy what the community as a whole values.

[2] The majority of the ridgeline to be designated are in the headwaters of the BSFNRRA, an area of special concern to TCWP of which I am a member. Their protection would benefit the park's water resources.

[3] The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands." Headwater sources are essential to downstream viability. Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area.

[4] Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule.

[5] Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region. According to the DEIS, travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

I'm asking that you grant the State of Tennessee's 2010 request to designate a portion of land in East Tennessee unsuitable for surface coal mining. - See more at: http://appvoices.org/2016/01/18/restricting-surface-mining-in-tennessee/#.dpuf Thank you.

I decided 23 years ago to make this part of Tennessee my final home because of the scenic and recreational opportunities (we knew no one in this area). Not only do we enjoy those aspects but we now spend a great deal of our spare time (more than 10 hours every week each) doing volunteer work helping the less fortunate in this area. As a result of our moving here, there are at least 12 other people now permanently living here because we convinced them to move here. Because of us, many of our friends and relatives from other parts of the country also visit here and spent their vacations and money in this area.

If the views here changed from spectacular examples of God's creation to the devastation of surface mining, we would all go somewhere else.

I grew up in the mountains of upstate NY where the 10,000 natural lakes once teemed with fish. The majority of those lakes are now devoid of any life because of the high acidity caused by the acid rain of coal burning in the industrial mid-west. I AM NOT A FRIEND OF COAL!

Luckily, our country and the world is becoming aware of the problems of coal and I am convinced that in the next 20 years, coal will become an import thing of the past. I doesn't make sense that we should allow the final death throes of coal to inflict more permanent damage to this area for the purpose of getting the last few dollars out of the ground. I hate to think intelligent people can be that selfish. I therefore recommend no surface mining be allowed in this area.

I am writing to support a request by the state of TN to designate all the ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. I am very interested in making sure our mountains are protected! I am praying that this Lands Unsuitable petition will be adopted.
I am writing in support of the State of Tennessee's request to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridge line corridors in the petition area extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

We live in one of the most beautiful parks of the country. Surface mining would compromise that beauty as well as threaten the environment.

Alternative 4 with a modification most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

The ecological impact of ridgetop surface mining on the subject fragile environment is calamitous. The effects are long-lasting and essentially irreversible. Please acknowledge the request made by the State of Tennessee and agree that the areas specified should be considered off-limits to ridgetop surface mining.

Thank you for your time, concern, and serious evaluation of what is at stake.

Sincerely,

Mary Lynn Dobson

I'm writing to support the State of Tennessee's request to designate as unsuitable for mining all of the ridge line corridors in the petition area extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

We are against all forms and processes of mining, especially fracking, and strip mining. Mother Earth has provided all the necessary energy to sustain an adequate amount of human population. We need to conserve and preserve nature, with respect to all life on this planet.

The damage done thus far can be repaired, as long as we EXIST! but at the rate we are going ........

Dear OSMRE,

I spoke at the Wartburg meeting, but at that time I had not studied NCWMA LUM document. I would like to state that I am supportive of Alternative 4 with a modification to limit remining.

Remining should only be allowed in the area that is otherwise designated as "unsuitable for surface mining" in situations where there is CONSENSUS between the State of Tennessee and OSMRE that the site-specific environmental and/or safety benefits of remining that site outweigh the adverse effects of mining in an area otherwise designated unsuitable for mining.

Thank you,

Pete Dolan

Enough damage has been done to our southern forests, waters and wilderness areas by big industry. Please know the economic benefits of conservation and wilderness stability far outweighs any short or long term development, and that also includes commercial development, business, housing, golf courses, etc. We must protect our climate, wildlife and environment.

Please pursue alternative 4 because it would protect our mountaintop environment and resources.

I support Alternative/Option 4 that prevents mining along mountain ridge tops since those are fragile ecological zones with cultural, aesthetic, historical, and environmental value.

Tennessee's natural places are a huge part of what makes the state a great place to live and a popular destination for ecotourism, outdoor sports, wildlife, sightseeing, and many other activities. These assets generate substantial economic benefits for Tennessee, its businesses, and its residents - benefits that would suffer greatly from the effects of mountaintop coal mining. Tennessee should choose natural beauty and conservation over continuing environmental degradation in pursuit of a polluting and outmoded source of energy.
I am writing to ask you to choose alternative 4 from the draft document. My husband and I enjoy hiking and vacationing in Tennessee's mountain areas, as do many other Americans. These areas provide numerous jobs in tourism and travel industries. Recent estimates suggest that in the 4 counties involved, tourism provides 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 million and $6.0 million, respectively, in state and local tax receipts.

The majority of the ridgeline concerned is in the headwaters of the Big South Fork, which deserves special protection, as do all headwater locations.

In Tennessee, mountain top mining provides less than 150 jobs, while it spoils the travel and vacationing experience and will turn visitors away. In addition, coal mining has already created serious environmental problems in Tennessee.

Please protect these fragile areas for use by all Americans and for wildlife and forests.

First: there is no reason to do any more mining in this state. Coal production is on the way out as we are moving into renewable energy sources.
Second: i was told to recommend plan 4 - however mining and fracking should be illegal in this beautiful state. Forget it!
Third: it is innately wrong to destroy wildlife habitats.
Fourth: vote with your conscience and not your greed

Please protect these natural areas. I'm surprised that this administration isn't more responsive to protecting what little is left!

Since 1986 I have been backpacking in the North Cumberland Mountains. In 2006 I took up white water kayaking. Some of my favorite rivers are found in the North Cumberland Mountain region. Allowing ridge line mining, in my opinion, would be detrimental to this area. My experience with ridge line mining in other regions, such as western North Carolina, is that of water contamination, erosion, and a loss of native plants and animals.

I understand that there is a petition to modify Alternative 4. This modification would state that "re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits or re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure."

The North Cumberland Mountains are a wonderful biodiverse area. For years I would take a long weekend every January to rent a cabin as a base camp from where I could hike, mountain bike, and occasionally kayak when the water on the Emory was up. It's a beautiful area and should be protected for future generations. Tennessee's protected areas draw visitors from around the world to enjoy its beauty. Please protect our natural resources.

Kind regards,

Jane C. Harrison, J.D.
TSRA
Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation
I recommend that the National Park Service follow Alternative 4 with a modification most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement.

I recommend the modification to Alternative 4 should be that re-mining of older coal mines is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

I have hiked the Cumberland Trail State Park and ridden off highway vehicles in this area. Ridgeline mining would totally negatively impact the aesthetic qualities and amazing views of these mountains. The majority of the ridgeline to be designated are in the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area as well as numerous other state owned lands and natural areas. This LUM protection would positively benefit the park's and surrounding community water resources. Additionally, the North Cumberland Mountains contain natural treasures such as a 40' tall waterfalls, mountain tops over 3,000', and headwater streams. This LUM petition area should be designated as "fragile lands."

Headwater sources are essential to downstream viability. Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule.

Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts.

By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

Once again, I recommend that the LUM petition, Alternative 4 with modification be granted.

Sincerely,

Hello,

I support Alternative 4 with the modification that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

I own property in Fentress county that borders the Big South Fork National Park and Recreation Area. My family, friends and I frequently visit the North Cumberland ridge area generally and the Big South Fork Park specifically. I think it is important that coal mining be reduced in the area and that mountain top / mountain ridge mining in particular be eliminated.

If mountain top mining is allowed in the North Cumberland area, tourism and outdoor recreation will suffer, as will local flora and fauna and watersheds.

The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands." Headwater sources are essential to downstream viability. Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region.

Thank you,

Tim
ID | Correspondence
---|---
200 | Coal price are in the crapper! Climate change is here and it's caused mainly by burning coal!!!! Why is this being considered? Are you paid by big coal or we, the people? Quit wasting my tax dollars...PLEASE!!!!!!
201 | Please stop the ridgetop mining. I recommend alternative 4.
202 | Our treasure in our Appalachian is much more than the coal. Our mountain tops are not replaceable. The geological construction of centuries should not be destroyed in a few minutes. Yes, there is a coal "tradition", but it does not need to include the tops of our mountains that will become more and more of an asset, whole, as our supply of natural scenic reserves dwindles. Mountain tops cannot be replaced, and destroyed streams pollute our precious water. All water is connected. Flint Michigan is finding out. Destroy is so much easier to do than preserve. "Fix" forgets that if we change one factor, we change them all. Preserve and love and care-for the treasure we have been given.
Magdalene P. Liles
2142 Cherokee Blvd.
Knoxville, TN 37919
daleflax@bellsouth.net
203 | We as Americans must curb our insatiable appetite for energy and be conscious of our use every day. This will require further education of our youth, as well as adults! This will go a long way toward preservation of our natural resources and will stop the need for mountaintop removal. It is far too destructive a practice to continue! I am asking that it stops here and now for the sake of the animal and plant species inhabiting the Cumberland Plateau and surrounding habitats! Thank you, Lynn Bartoletti
204 | Of the options available, I support option 4. However, the re-mining activities should be limited to only those areas where the benefits of re-mining activities outweigh the damages caused by the activity. I canoe and hike the area extensively. Protection from run-off into streams is especially important in headwaters. There are many in this area. Sight lines are important to those of us who hike the area to enjoy the spectacular vistas and wilderness. It is my belief that recreation and tourism will provide many more job opportunities and economic benefit than mining activities.
Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.
Daniel Boone
205 | I support Alternative 4
206 | Alternative #4 is my preference. We need to save our mountaintop and stop destroying the natural beauty of these regions.
207 | I strongly urge adoption of Option 4. Tennessee is so fortunate to have this area available for the public to enjoy. Please do what is necessary to maintain this treasure for generations to come.
208 | Please ban Ridgetop Coal Mining in the North Cumberlands. Tennessee is endowed with unique natural areas that need to be protected. Not only is the area home to many different species of conservation concern, but it is upstream of many more, meaning that anything that happens in the area will have an effect on downstream areas. In addition, the economic benefits of protecting this area are clear. Recreation and tourism will result in more jobs and more state and local revenue than will surface mining.
I recommend alternative 4 with the modification that re-mining be limited to sites at which safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.
I am a native Tennessean who returned after decades of military service. Having lived all over the world, few places on earth compare to our extraordinary natural resources, epic scenery, and streaming waters. As fresh water resources decline globally, our guardianship of these assets requires more rigor. And, as an avid canoeist and hiker, I am convinced that preservation of our wild lands and wild waters will not only (1)sustain water access regionally, while (2) preserving species diversity; it will also (3) create long term job growth from tourism and recreational businesses.

I strongly urge Alternative #4, with modifications. This most closely accomplishes the State’s intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

Surface mining has a long, ignoble history in Tennessee; we have clear and convincing evidence of the catastrophic damage it routinely produces, into current times. The petition area should be designated as “fragile lands.” Headwater sources are essential to healthy downstream water. Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems already exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

Thank you,

LTC (R) Lisa Lemza, US ARMY
Chattanooga, TN

Stop the mining. The Big South Fork Recreation Area which is next to the mining is a huge tourism area which brings individuals and families out to enjoy the natural beauty of this marvelous state of TN. My husband and I moved three years ago to the Cumberland Plateau and we are loving the mountains and beauty of TN. and we wish to live no where else. TN. is a state of pure natural beauty and the Cumberlands are a huge part of that. Why would anyone want to ruin that? It's not hard to figure that out. Pure and simple - MONEY. Mining the Cumberlands will not add to the Big South Fork and will only hurt the area and the people of TN. Once the top of the mountain is gone, you CAN'T get it back. It's gone for ALL of us. Think about it. No amount of money is ever the right reason to desecrate our natural beauty of TN. Stop the mining.
Alternative 4 is the right choice, with a slight change that designates as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The change to to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure. 

For over 30 years, I have traveled with family, friends, and boy scouts to the area to experience the incredible outdoor recreational opportunities that the Big South Fork area offers. Ridgeline mining would destroy the vistas experienced traveling to and in the area, and would adversely affect the water quality in the area. These areas should be designated as "fragile lands." 

Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. This number will only grow as time goes on as population grows and outdoor areas shrink. If land is destroyed by ridgetop mining, the land will never realize that economic potential. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013. Our policy-makers should have the courage to be thinking long-term, not only in terms of short-term profits for a few.

I am writing to encourage you to ban ridge top coal mining in the North Cumberlands. I would suggest that alternate #4 would be the best solution to this problem since it would protect more miles of mountain tops. We need to protect The Big South Fork’s water resources. This area should be designated as "fragile lands". Recreation and tourism are much better use of this land the future of the region. Thank you.

Ruth Peeples

I am writing to encourage you to ban ridge top coal mining in the North Cumberlands. I would suggest that alternate #4 would be the best solution to this problem since it would protect more miles of mountain tops. We need to protect The Big South Fork’s water resources. This area should be designated as "fragile lands". Recreation and tourism are much better use of this land the future of the region. Thank you.

Ruth Peeples

I am signing this petition because I use part of this area for hiking and other outdoor activities. We should be saving areas like this for our tourism industry.

Please consider Alternative 4 with a modification so that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

Thank you for your consideration.

I grew up in Middle Tenn. and have walked many of the trails with my children over the years. Now I have grandchildren and love taking them to the Greenways Protected areas and Cumberland Wildlife areas. I am very proud of my state especially for its ability to maintain so many beautiful and unique natural areas. Please do not make policy that threatens that!! Please do not allow mining to occur in areas that need to be protected.

We have beauty and a natural life to preserve, that’s all of our responsibility. Some things are more precious than the resources in those hills!!

Please conserve our land in the Cumberlands. Stop mining.

Please conserve our land in the Cumberlands. Stop mining.

Please conserve our land in the Cumberlands. Stop mining.
Coal mining is a destructive and pollutive force that damages our wildlands. It harms those living in the area with pollution and runoff as well as forever changing the landscape in destructive ways. As a resident, an avid outdoors person, and a frequent visitor to the area, this beautiful area should not be considered for mining.

Alternative 4 with a modification most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

The majority of the ridgeline to be designated are in the headwaters of the Big South Fork. Additionally, the North Cumberland Mountains contain natural treasures such as a 40' tall waterfalls, mountain tops over 3,000', and headwater streams. The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands." Headwater sources are essential to downstream viability. Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

This is to express my support for Alternative 4 for the EIS, modified as follows: It should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

My family strongly supports the elimination of ridgeline mining in general, but particularly in this area of the North Cumberland Mountains where the ridgeline is in the headwaters of the Big South Fork, a national treasure.

It's not too late to recover from environmental mistakes of the past, like ridgeline mining.

I strongly request and urge that you follow the recommendations of Tenn Care regarding the management of the North Cumberland area. Thank you.

I feel that OSMRE's Alternative 3, the preferred alternative in the Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement (PED/EIS) document is flawed in that remaining coal seams would be allowed on too many of the ridgelines in the petition area.
Alternative 4 with a modification most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

The majority of the ridgeline to be designated are in the headwaters of the Big South Fork, an area of special concern to me. Their protection would benefit the park's water resources. Additionally, the North Cumberland Mountains contain natural treasures such as a 40' tall waterfalls, mountain tops over 3,000', and headwater streams. The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands." Headwater sources are essential to downstream viability.

Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

Please Ban Ridgetop Coal Mining in the North Cumberlands. I recommend alternative 4 because it would protect more miles of mountaintops.

Thanks,

Grace Robertson
Nashville, TN

I do not support mountaintop mining/removal. I believe Alternative 4 is best option.

To whom it may concern:

As a resident of the Cumberland Mountains, I am writing in support of federal designation to protect these mountains from mining. It is a fact that living land is more beautiful to behold, safer for humans and wildlife, prosperous and even profitable than land that has been stripped of its lifeblood for the sake of a handful of jobs and short-term economic gains. Our Cumberland Mountains are alive, and it is both wrong and unwise to consider allowing surface mining to rob them, and everything downstream of them, of their life-sustaining qualities.

Sincerely,

Holley Roberts
Cookeville, TN
We have recently relocated to TN from FL and plan to remain here and raise our child here. One of the things that drew us to TN is its beauty and fresh-water resources, and what we perceived as a commitment to stewardship of these resources. Freshwater resources are declining globally and we have to work extra hard to protect them. Preservation of our wild spaces will (1) keep us in fresh clean water (2) protect and preserve wildlife and the web that keeps us safe, and will (3) create long-term job growth from tourism and recreation, which is where we hope TN is headed.

Please focus on Alternative #4, with modifications. This most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

We know the devastating consequence—both personal and health-related and environmental—that surface mining causes. We know it from history into the present. Because headwater sources are vital to healthy downstream water, this area should be designated as "fragile lands." Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems already exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule.

Recreation and tourism are a better (and more lucrative) use for this area. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

We are counting on you to do the right thing for the future of our state and our planet. Our children and grandchildren deserve to enjoy the clean, healthy, and beautiful places that we have so enjoyed. Clean energy is the future. Let's demonstrate our willingness to move forward instead of remaining attached to the past.

Please ban ridgetop coal mining in the North Cumberlands! Ridgeline mining in this area will adversely affect fragile natural lands and waters. We have a responsibility to care for our natural lands and habitats for the benefit of future generations to enjoy and learn from. Ridgeline mining will cause significant damage to historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

Alternative 4 with modification to limit re-mining sites to those sites (in consensus with the state and OSMRE) in which the benefits largely outweigh the damages inflicted on the land by re-mining should be considered.

Our family has enjoyed this natural area for many years and we hope nothing occurs to change the beauty that God created.

Please ban ridgetop coal mining!

I support alternative 4. These need to protected as to their natural features, it is irresponsible at this time to damage these areas as I question the need for coal with the surplus of natural gas. I use, as do many others, these areas for hiking, camping and photography. As time progresses clean water will be of a higher concern than coal.

No more exploitation of our beautiful natural State areas like the Cumberland region. The area is a true jewel. Let's preserve our natural beauty and make it a tourist draw instead of creating an ecocide.

Please ban ridge top coal mining in Tennessee, especially the North Cumberland Mountains. This kind of mining is detrimental to the environment and provides few jobs.
In my younger days I fished, canoed, and hiked in my native Middle Tennessee, and later in East Tennessee. I do not want our state to lose the natural beauty and natural resources so vulnerable to mining interests. Please support the Documents of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management LUM.

There are certain lands "unsuitable for mining" among the ridgelines and connecting corridors within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. I should know. I am one of the few people still alive who actually petitioned the OSMRE to have lands unsuitable for mining designation of lands in the Emory River watershed (near Frozen Head Natural Area). We WON that designation (the first one in the State of Tennessee) long before there even was a North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. And there would be no Emory River Tract Conservation Easement had it not been for that contentious action taken by residents of Morgan County of which I was one.

Hence we have long known and studied that area and I remain personally assured that I can say justly that Alternative 4 with the increased mileage of ridgeline is a much preferred alternative. As a registered civil engineer (retired) in the state of Tennessee, I also know and have witnessed many, many past attempts at "re-mining" as an attempt at reclamation to avoid future water pollution. It seldom works.

Please consider Alternative 4 to protect more miles of mountaintops in the North Cumberland Mountains. Ridgetops are too fragile for surface mining techniques.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Durak

Please protect our beautiful Tennessee by banning mountain top removal by mining coal in the Cumberland Mountains. Not only does this practice destroy the mountains, it pollutes the streams and affects the watershed streams and the ecosystem for miles and miles, not to mention the harmful effects of coal use on our environment. I am appalled that in 2016 the toxic evidence of such practices is being ignored by those who have pledged to protect and manage the lands for the people of Tennessee.

I support OSM's alternative 4 on the draft PED/EIS. However, I can live with alternative 3.

jwh 1-20-16

I would like to express my concern about and my hope that ridgeline mining would not be allowed along any of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area as well as any connecting to the stream corridors of the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement and the North Cumberland WMA. These are beautiful areas with very fragile systems that mining would severely compromise. My husband and I moved to the area 4 years ago not for the mines but for the beautiful rivers, ridges and plants and animals. We contribute to the economy and the community and we want to keep the beauty and diversity safe from any hazards. and as you know no matter how safe a company is it is not a matter of if there is an accident but when there is an accident. It is our duty to protect these wonderful areas.

Sincerely,
Susan Havens
Deer Lodge TN

Tennessee is a beautiful state. we have had enough mountain tops blown up and destroyed. The Cumberland Mountains should be protected and saved for future generations. They should be preserved for their beauty, their value for tourism and recreation. Once destroyed, they will never again be anything but a wasteland.

I would like to voice my support for Alternative 4 of the proposed rule, because I strongly support protecting the North Cumberlands, especially in the area of the South Fork National Park. I think that mining in this area would threaten the environment and rivers in this area.
As a person who was attracted to live in Tennessee for its natural beauty, I am opposed to operations that damage and destroy the beauty of Tennessee. Many other people who travel here to vacation or decide to move here do so because of the natural beauty of the state. I recommend alternative 4. The North Cumberland area is fragile and contains many waterfalls, mountains over 3,000 feet and stream headwaters. There are many people like myself that hike in the North Cumberlands and we want to preserve it in a natural state.

PRESENTATION TO DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

LUMS PETITION
JANUARY 20, 2016

To whom this may concern:

I am John Noel, President of a forty year old business in Nashville and frequent user of the Cumberland plateaus recreational assets and especially that known as the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area which I have hiked and recreated for over twenty years.

This area is an impressive collection of recreational assets, scenic attractions, and unique geology and laced throughout with over 1,000 miles of connector trails including the to be completed the Cumberland Trail, one of the longest trails in the eastern U.S.

In 2003-2008 I served on the Board of the Tennessee Recreation Advisory Committee under Governor Bredesen. This committee operated as a blue print to assess current recreation supply, identify critical issues and develop policy related to state public recreation. In this capacity I initiated a comprehensive assessment of the social, health, and economic benefits of Tennessee’s public lands and parks. That professional independent study found that for every $1 of state money spent, over $60 comes back in economic and tourists dollars, exclusive of mining. There is a good reason the state petitioned this exceptional area and precisely why Tennessee moved to protect it from mining that compromises its highest and best use.

This eco-region represents one of the most biologically diverse temperate forest in the world with more hardwood tree species than all of Europe. The areas fresh water, waterfalls, springs, and aquatic species are unparalleled for any inland state in our country. All of this fragile asset is at risk and is unrepairable to the destructive processes of mining. Smoothing out, sowing grass, and planting some trees makes not a mature forest or biologically diverse ecosystem.

Leave it alone and let it work to the benefit of Tennessee’s tourism, citizens enjoyment, and its protection. It will only get better with time.

Additionally, recently 195 nations came together in Paris to form a new international agreement on Climate Change and the consequences of carbon emissions in the atmosphere. Extracting coal in this petitioned area is destructive to trees and mature forests. The Paris agreement specifically cited the retention of trees as beneficial to uptake of carbon and production of valuable oxygen, hence, this petitioned area is further fragile to the destructive mining practices on 500 miles of
Alternative 4 with a modification most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

The majority of the ridgeline to be designated are in the headwaters of the Big South Fork, an area of special concern. Their protection would benefit the park's water resources.

Additionally, the North Cumberland Mountains contain natural treasures such as a 40' tall waterfalls, mountain tops over 3,000', and headwater streams. The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands." Headwater sources are essential to downstream viability. Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

My friends and family hike and enjoy these lands every year, particularly those in the headwaters of Big South Fork in which the majority of the ridgeline to be designated falls. Protection of these ridges would benefit the park's water resources as well as protecting the beauty of the park. Additionally, the North Cumberland Mountains contain natural treasures such as a 40' tall waterfalls, mountain tops over 3,000', and headwater streams. The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands." Headwater sources are essential to downstream viability. Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Cynthia and Steve Rohrbach

Please reconsider any ridgetop mining that may affect the headwaters of the Big South Fork. Thank you.

Please ban ridge top coal mining, especially in the beautiful North Cumberland Mountains. This kind of mining is detrimental to the environment and provides few jobs.

I LOVE THIS AREA!! SO BEAUTIFUL AND SO MUCH TO OFFER. PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT AWAY :(.

Please prohibit ridge top mining in TN. We don't want to ruin our environment.
Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for allowing the public to comment on this draft to the office of Surface mining concerning the North Cumberland Wildlife management area and surrounding areas of the region. I urge your adoption of (modified) alternative 4 of the proposed draft plan as outlined. These lands are really unsuitable for mining or extraction as the primary activities favor recreation and tourism. There are also really no real economic benefit from mining for the region as there are very few mining jobs supported anymore and scarcity of coal in this area. Furthermore, the downsides outweigh the upsides for any more ridge top mining especially since the aquatic resources need to remain protected for everyone living downstream from any mining operations, in addition to aquatic species and other dependent wildlife.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Joe G Franklin

I know that we need coal for energy and that the coal industry supports families that live in Tennessee. I feel that if we must mine coal that we must do it responsibly in a way that does not harm the drinking water and the scenic beauty of Tennessee.

I like to keep Tennesseans employed, and I also like very much to have electricity to light and heat my home, and to cook my food. However, I also enjoy getting into the great outdoors and hiking in the Upper Cumberlands, breathing in the clean air, and looking out over unspoiled vistas. I also enjoy knowing that my neighbors, both human and critter have a clean place to live, eat, and drink.

I am aware that there is a petition circulating that pertains to some specifications that will help us to manage the surface mining of our coal resources in a responsible manner. I am no expert on these specifications, but those who are recommend as follows: "Our recommendation: Alternative 4 with a modification most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure."

I trust these people, and I feel that these recommendations are what I would want if I knew anything about the specifications for surface mining in these areas.

Please take these recommendations seriously, as I feel that they are what is best for me and all of my neighbors who live in and enjoy this area.

Thank you! Paul Miller 1/20/16

Yes. Just wanting to voice opposition for mountaintop removal mining. Public lands are at risk. We need to find alternative energy sources.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>251</td>
<td>As a contributor to TennGreen's mission I want to save Tennessee's Natural Treasures. I am an avid hiker and want the land preserved now and for generations to come. I recommend alternative 4 because it would protect more miles of mountaintops. I support the petition seeking to prevent surface mining within 600 feet on either side of ridgelines (i.e., a 1,200 foot corridor) within the 269 square miles of the two areas (located in Anderson, Morgan, Scott, and Campbell Counties). I support Alternative 4 with a modification which most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region. Janet Sheahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>252</td>
<td>Yes. Just writing to voice my opposition to mountaintop mining removal. Public lands are at risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>253</td>
<td>Yes I am writing to voice my opposition to mountain top removal mining in certain counties of Tennessee (Scott, Campbell, Morgan). The land is at the headwaters of the Big South Fork recreation area and would pose harm to that area. Tourism is very important to that part of Tennessee and mining would damage that industry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>254</td>
<td>I am opposed to ridgetop mining. The North Cumberland Wildlife WMA is a unique state and regional treasure which would never recover. We have a duty to preserve this area for future generations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>255</td>
<td>Please respect the natural topography of our land and help families to find better, healthier, and more sustainable work in Tennessee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
My name is Annetta Watson; I am a resident and taxpayer of the Coalfield community in Morgan County, and have resided at my current address in Coalfield for over 35 years. Morgan County is one of the several Tennessee counties with properties within the Petition Area, including the Emory River Tracts Easement Area which incorporates the headwaters of the Emory River and several significant drainages into the Emory River.

As to my pertinent background, I have hiked in the Easement Area and helped host tours to the Easement and its resources by the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Tennessee Ornithological Society and the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. During my visits to the Easement Area, I have identified areas damaged by surface mine and hydraulic fracture well development as well as potential habitat for 2 high-priority neotropical migrant bird species - the cerulean warbler and the golden-winged warbler. I also serve the State of Tennessee as a volunteer member of the Emory River Planning Committee, which is advising the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation on the State Management Plan for the Emory River. In that regard, it is part of my responsibility to assist the State in preserving and protecting populations of the critically imperiled

Ban Ridgetop Coal Mining in the North Cumberlands! Alternative 4 is a better way to go.

Please ban ridgetop removal mining in the Cumberland Mountains. It's essential to keep this area protected for the safety of the people and wildlife in the area.

I support Alternative 4 that has been proposed. I think the north Cumberland area is an extremely important area. I personally use it for hiking and cannot imagine the mountain tops being mined! This is also an important ecological area.

Thanks,

Steve Pardue
49

ID Correspondence
260 Please protect our Cumberland Mountains!

Alternative 4 with a modification most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

The majority of the ridgeline to be designated are in the headwaters of the Big South Fork. Their protection would benefit the park’s water resources. Additionally, the North Cumberland Mountains contain natural treasures such as a 40’ tall waterfalls, mountain tops over 3,000’, and headwater streams. The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands." Headwater sources are essential to downstream viability. Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

261 Please stop ridge-top coal mining in the Northern Cumberlands

I would recommend alternative number 4.

We need to protect one of this states natural beauties.

Blessings & Joys - -- ->

Thanks
We are writing in support of the petition to designate 76,000 acres and 569 miles of ridgelines in the Upper Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (UCWMA) as unsuitable for surface coal mining. While alternative 4 is not perfect, in our opinion, it is far superior to the other options.  

The glaringly destructive process of surface mining has already scarred far too many mountains in the Upper Cumberlands, and its continuation will compromise efforts to build a thriving tourism industry, which clearly represents our region's future. By contrast, surface mining, which currently employs fewer than 130 persons statewide, represents our region's past.

My (David's) family arrived in Wartburg in the mid-19th century as part of the effort to establish a German/Swiss community here. By the end of the century, the family had left the region, but I returned to Morgan County in 1998 and built a home here. My property borders on Clear Creek, which is part of the Obed Wild and Scenic River system. We are here primarily because of the region's natural beauty and the recreational opportunities that capitalize on that beauty, and we intend to remain here for the rest of our lives.

The natural amenities that attracted us to this rugged and unspoiled region likewise underpin our support for the petition. Indeed, the Upper Cumberlands' abundance of mountains, deep-cut gorges, and free-flowing rivers make this area a paradise for nature lovers. Those amenities also draw thousands of hikers, climbers, and boaters to the region, and the numbers of these visitors have increased dramatically since our arrival here nearly 20 years ago. Increasing numbers of visitors and the money they spend in our region will stimulate the region's economy and create jobs and do so in a way that's sustainable into the future.

According to the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), "Visitors coming from outside of the local area spend approximately $177.4 million within the four-county area." The DEIS also notes that travel and tourism-related expenditures support 1,420 jobs in the four-county area as well as $10.4 million in

I support Option IV, with the modification that remining be very limited if allowed at all and used only to correct acid runoff. Tourism is a better use of this gift.
Dear Sirs:

As a long-time resident of Tennessee I value its intrinsic beauty and the numerous opportunities for serene moments in nature.

As a member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society I value the diversity of migrating and resident bird species in our state.

As a concerned citizen of Tennessee I am opposed to the 'remining' of natural areas in our state due to the disruption of natural habitat of all fauna and flora species.

Therefore, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridge line corridors in the petition area extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

Please consider all elements of the State's position and realize the impact of the proposed mining operation.

Thank you for your attention to the interests of the Tennessee public.

Sincerely,

Donna C. Ladd

God has given us only one world, and we will not receive another one. We as people have been given the privilege of protecting our earth.

I write to support the State of Tennessee's request to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all the ridge line corridors in the petition area extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

Thank you.- -Sandra S. Foster, James L. Foster

Alternative 4 with a modification most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.
To Whom It May Concern: I am writing in regard to the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition. I have an annual trek to the wild and wonderful ridge lines and connecting corridors within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management. I hike these pristine areas for their beauty and unmatched grandeur. Further, I spend time in the Obed River valley and the Clear Creek. Friends own property that provide great views of the ridge lines under consideration. Please do not subjugate the enjoyment of natural beauty to the demands of the unsatisfied hunger for consumption. Recreation is the closest thing to creation and no new ridge lines are being created. Alternative 4, which would protect 76,000 acres and 569 miles of ridgelines in the Upper Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (UCWMA), is far superior to the other options. Please protect the irreplaceable. Please designate these gifts from God from unnecessary destruction to mankind's never satisfied appetite for more and more consumption. Thank you!

Dave Murphy

Ridge top mining in the Cumberland Mountains, North Cumberland area, would greatly damage all of the other long-term assets of the region. I appreciate the forest resources, wildlife, and clean streams of this significant natural area, and these benefits to Tennessee citizens outweigh the need for coal. Alternative 4 is a better prospect.
Yes, please restrict our North Cumberland Mountains from ridgetop mining. I support Alternative 4 with modifications. Both of my grandfathers were coal miners. I grew up coming to Briceville, TN every month of my life and still have family here.

Also, I am the founding director of the 18-year-old statewide non-profit Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, aka TennGreen, where I currently serve as senior advisor. Our mission is to conserve Tennessee’s natural treasures... places like Cummins Falls, Black Mountain, and Virgin Falls.

Because large contiguous tracts of conserved land are crucial to conserve biodiversity and life on the planet, our vision is to connect corridors of conserved land together throughout Tennessee.

On behalf of our 1000 plus members, I’m asking for you to support a modified alternative 4. It conserves all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending and connect with vital stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement.

The 76,133 acres and 569 miles of ridgetop in this petition area are crucial to our mission. Additionally, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands." The Cumberland Mountains are renowned for phenomenal forests, rich aquatic life and outstanding outdoor recreation. The streams contain extremely high concentrations of endangered species. In fact the Cumberland aquatic regions contain the highest number of fish, mussel and crayfish species, and the highest number of endemic freshwater fauna in North America.

Most of these ridgelines are in the headwaters of the Big South Fork, an area of very special concern to TennGreen. Ridgetop and headwater conservation would benefit the park's waters and wildlife and its biodiversity.

Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist and can be corrected. Public hearings should be required prior to remining to ensure no harm would be caused to fragile habitat or scenic destinations.

Finally, recreation and tourism are a better use of this area for our economic future. The EIS mentions nine waterfalls including a 40' tall one called Meadow Creek Twin Falls, plus, rock formations like the Cumberland Trail Rock Window and Titus Arch, and 3000' tall ridgetops such as Bear Knob, Cross High Point, Gibson Knob, and Lick Creek Mountain. After TennGreen saved Cummins Falls, 200,000 visitors per year discovered it and keep coming back. With any promotion, people will come and the region will benefit, now and in the future. What is good for the environment is also good for the economy.

In your environmental impact study, you include that travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four...
I am a native resident of Anderson County and I am an avid hiker, native plant enthusiast, and birder. The protection of habitat is a major priority for me, and a measure of the quality of life in this area. I would like to comment on the draft EIS for the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition. I would like to support the state in its petition to designate lands as unsuitable for surface mining. I support the state's stand that surface coal-mining operations are incompatible with existing state or local land use plans or programs; and, that they would affect fragile lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values. I would like to endorse alternative 4, with a reminder that re-mining should only be recommended when there is an environmental or safety issue that needs to be addressed. The decimating effect of coal mining on our mountains has ruined our scenic views and polluted our waterways, and those scars are still with us today. Hopefully we have learned over the years that preserving our natural habitat creates a much greater positive impact on the economy than the few jobs associated with coal mining. This particular 146,000 acre WMA has a diverse array of habitats and wildlife, including Elk that have been re-introduced. Unfortunately timber harvest, strip mining, and gas well development have provided extensive clearing. By accepting Alternative 4, it is almost identical as the recommended Alternative 3, but by applying improved mapping and measurement technology to the State's criteria for inclusion of "all ridge lines", the area is considerably expanded. This Alternative would designate the 1,200-foot corridor along 569 (instead of 505) miles of ridgeline for a total of 76,133 (instead of 67,326) acres as unsuitable for surface mining.

Alternative 4

Grant an expanded corridor designation of independently identified ridgelines within the petition area while allowing re-mining and road access (designation of 76,133 acres)

Thank you,
Rhonda Bogard

I prefer alternative 4 with a modification that re-mining be carefully considered and only used to correct an environmental problem.

I support alternative 4 with modifications as alternative 4 would conserve the most mountain tops. The modification I support - re-mining would only occur when environmental damages from previous mining be corrected. Thank you.

I am in favor of Alternative 4 with the modification that will limit mining to only those sites which the State and OSMRE agree that safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh damage inflicted by these activities.

Re-mining will disturb the protection of natural areas and the delicate environments. It could pollute water. And the loss of natural areas that attract visitors to Tennessee, and well as benefit the citizens of Tennessee, will produce potential tax and revenue loss.

Re-mining should ONLY occur when environmental damages from previous mining MUST be corrected. The State and OSMRE would have to agree on the need to permit re-mining.

Dear OSMRE

I support Alternative 1 which is included in the proposal but only if it includes reclaiming the land at the conclusion of the mining operation.

Sincerely
Robert Walker

I urge you to ban ridgetop coal mining in the North Cumberlands. Please enact alternative 4 with modifications that would limit re-mining to sites where benefits outweigh the damages. This would most closely accomplish the intent of the State of TN. Statistics indicate that there are significant economic benefits to be achieved through promotion of recreation and tourism rather than destroying the attractions of the area through ridgetop coal mining.
To Whom it May Concern,

I support alternative 4 with modifications. Alternative 4 would conserve the most mountain tops. The modification that we recommend is that: re-mining ONLY occur when environmental damages from previous mining MUST be corrected. The State and OSMRE would have to agree on the need to permit re-mining.

I have been a professional nature photographer for the past 40 years. I think that the beauty of our state is a legacy that we must protect for future generations to view and enjoy. As our society consumes more and more of our landscape it becomes more vital than ever before that we save what is left from further destruction. Our children are depending on us to consider these things for them.

Byron Jorjorian

I would like the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to ban the practice of ridge top mining and coal mining in the North Cumberland area and to consider approving Alternative 4. I prefer Alternative 4 with the modification that re-mining be carefully considered and only used to correct an environmental problem. Re-mining should only be used to improve the conservation value of the areas. Ridge top mining can still pollute the headwaters of the area and would greatly deter recreational use and the natural scenic beauty of the Cumberlands. We should protect and preserve the gorgeous waterfalls located on these properties and consider that once contaminated, will forever be so. Tourism and Recreational uses of land bring in more dollars to the county and region than the one time period of mining would. Long term solutions for this land such as plans for recreation and tourism should be considered the better alternative than mining. Protecting the natural landscape will create healthier and longer-standing jobs for our citizens. Eliminating the potential for mining in the Cumberlands increases the health of the community, decreases healthcare costs, and considers the generations to come who will enjoy these areas. Not to mention the decrease in costs to purify water so that it is safe to touch, drink, and enjoy. I urge OSMRE to choose to ban mining in these areas and consider Alternative 4. Thank you.

Although my wife and I are residents of Ohio, we have family ties to the beautiful land that is the North Cumberland area. We visit there often and thoroughly enjoy the scenic vistas and relatively unspoiled terrain. Clearly the future of this area is tied to increasing opportunities for outdoor recreation and tourism, not the exploitation of its natural resources through the surface mining of coal.

We have reviewed material presented in the petition to the Department of the Interior to declare ridgelines and adjacent areas in the region as unsuitable for surface mining. Of the alternatives being considered, we would lend our support to Alternative 4, a common sense proposal.

In examining the responses by intervenors opposed to the petition, we find that their comments are for the most part self-serving and fail to provide adequate rationale for the dismissal of the petition. Certainly it is the interest of the common good to approve this.

Nancy and Ron Brill
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Joan Balfour

Haven't we done enough damage to the natural world? Leave this paradise alone!

Please do not allow mining or drilling on public lands. They are for the public, not industry.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

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I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kevin Dahl

I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kevin Dahl

We can't keep destroying the land.

Protect the land from pollution

Comment? Seriously? Have Americans become so consumed with greed and so disconnected from God that you need to hear why this is so wrong?

I am against this
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Tim Barrington

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

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I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Randall Nord

Please protect our mountains and forest.

We have only ONE EARTH we need to protect what open land we have we can NOT get it back.
301 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Ahearn

302 WE'RE URGING YOU TO SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 4 WITH LIMITING RE-MINING.

303 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Lesli Bell

304 I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Lesli Bell
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Gwynne

Do it

Please save our parks

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

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I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Paul D Ramos
<table>
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<th>ID</th>
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</table>
| 310 | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely, Mary Riblett |
| 311 | Dirty coal should stay in the ground. End the destruction.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 312 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely, |
| 313 | Protect our wildlife                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 314 | It is our responsibility as citizen, officials, and representatives to save our environment and our forests and our wildlife.                                                                                                           |
| 315 | Protect wildlife!                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 316 | Leave the mountains the way nature made them. Ecologically needed intact more than profit of ruining them!                                                                                                                             |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Bill Holt

Please protect our mountains and natural landscapes from mining and other development. Thank you.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Protect our wild lands, please. No mining!

Please safeguard the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area from mining. It is too beautiful and important to destroy.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. And let’s be honest, that’s never going to happen.

Human and planetary health are far more important than short-term corporate profiteering. We’ve only got the one planet.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jaime Becker

We are killing our planet and it must STOP!!!!

PLEASE PRESERVE THIS. THANKS

Listen to the local people, not those who want to make money and get out.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer:

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

I stand with NPCA by voicing my support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

I voice my support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

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I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I support "keeping it in the ground" and alternative energy plans.
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>331</td>
<td>No natural wilderness area should be compromised just so special financial interests can make more money.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>332</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Robin Craft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>333</td>
<td>Keep this territory intact and free for any degradation and development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>334</td>
<td>NO MINE!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mark Daniels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>336</td>
<td>Please don't allow mining on this unspoiled land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>337</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marie Elaina Rago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>338</td>
<td>it's the only planet we have. it's our duty to preserve as much as we can for future generations!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>340</td>
<td>We must have our open wild spaces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>341</td>
<td>No Mining! NO!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>342</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. This is also personal for me, as I have family history in the state of Tennessee (Boles family). Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Diana Saxon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>343</td>
<td>Big South Fork is a unique area and should be protected from mining and its negative effects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>344</td>
<td>I hope to see our nation cut back on all mining, fracking, and drilling projects, especially those that threaten to pollute our waterways, wildlife, and communities. Thanks!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>345</td>
<td>Wildlife management is just that - wildlife management. Mining has no place there. Must be averted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>346</td>
<td>There's no need for coal mining in this area. This country needs to move away from coal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Susan M Roach

---


We have already destroyed many of our national treasures. This cannot go on or we will have one horrific garbage dump as earth.

I want You to reconsider this matter. The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands is not suitable for Mining. Have You lost your minds. We need to be preserving areas like this and not ruining them. You haven't thought this through enough. You would do more damage than good. Find somewhere else more suitable.

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Hi,

We have seen mountain top mining, rivers destroyed: http://www.livescience.com/51820-colorado-mine-spill-river-photos.html

Enough is enough.

Cheers,

Theodore

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Protect our planet!!!!!
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<tr>
<td>355</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. Sincerely, Kimberly Beeler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>356</td>
<td>All ecosystems are under stress because of climate change. We should not add the additional stress of mining to this area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>357</td>
<td>we to stop destroying the land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>358</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Julianne Dunkley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear L.U.M. Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and O.S.M.R.E. agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Raymond R. Reines

Mountain top mining is a antiqued process and unneeded in today's energy needs

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Please do all you can to preserve Tennessee's vistas. As a native of Pennsylvania, i am painfully aware of the scars that are left behind by mining - both strip and underground.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Patrick R. Judge

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Lands are Unsuitable for Mining

Please don't destroy that beautiful land.

This area should NOT be mined. The negative impact of mining would be disastrous!
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<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, İ supplement the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. İ strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. İ This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. İ Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. İ Sincerely, Neil O'Donnell, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, İ supplement the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. İ strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. İ This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. İ Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. İ Sincerely, Michael Wichman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>367</td>
<td>Please allow this pristine land to remain as it has been for eons.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Working in the environmental space for the past 12 years as I have, it is disheartening when poorly planned initiatives persist and post a serious threat to our nation’s greatest resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Cheron Carlson

Please save this area for generations to enjoy.

No mining, that sounds wrong!!!

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shirley Harris

We must protect these precious resources. Once they are mined they are gone- forever different. Please help protect our legacy for our kids sake!

I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

I support withdrawing more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridge lines, and improveing wildlife habitat and water quality in the region.
If we don't have our Earth, we are doomed. We need to do everything possible to protect our land, the rich wildlife that inhabits it and the important and valuable ecosystem that supports all of us. Please do what you can to protect these sacred places on Earth. I believe our survival deeply depends on the actions we take NOW, today.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kevin Zellmer

the mountains are ours. they do not belong to corporations or oil or coal companies. keep your hands off.

These lands belong to the American People. They should not be despoiled in any way. No mining, fracking or drilloing and no development.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water.

I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process.
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Judith Schenck

NO MINING!! The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area is not to be destroyed. These lands belong to American Citizens and not to be given to some corporation to pillage for their own profit.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Yours sincerely,

Robert E. Rutkowski

2527 Faxon Court
Topeka, Kansas 66605-2086
P/F: 1 785 379-9671
E-mail: r_e_rutkowski@att.net
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
E.A. Allen |
| 386 |  
protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area! Designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.  
Withdrawning 76,000 acres from surface mining will protect mountain ridgelines, improve wildlife habitat and water quality in this region.  
Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors is the right thing to do. I strongly SUPPORT Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
Thank you |
| 387 | FOR ALL OUR SAKES, JUST KEEP IT IN THE GROUND. JUST LEAVE WHAT IS LEFT OF OUR PLANET ALONE! |
| 388 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Liz Nedeff |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Harriet E. Cohen

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael Bondoc

Protect our "wild lands", national parks, grasslands, seashores AND ALL wildlife before everything is gone forever!

Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and,

Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

I respectfully and very strongly urge protection of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area from any surface mining ever.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jessica Cresseveur

Please protect what clean land we still have.

Please don't ruin these beautiful & sacred places, There should be no mining or like industry or development on public lands, parks & wildlife sanctuaries

There is only one opportunity to protect our wilderness areas. Once they are destroyed by mining, drilling, logging, etc - that is the end of them. They won't come back - no matter how much you wish.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Lauret Savoy

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. I feel strongly about this and appreciate your consideration.

These lands are a national treasure. Myself and many others come to Tennessee from out of state and even from other countries to enjoy them, bringing a sustainable economy to Tennessee with us. Coal is on the way out, think of the future!
STOP ALL MINING IN PROTECTED PUBLIC LANDS! THE MOUNTAINS IN EVERY STATE ARE THE WILDERNESS WE WANT TO LEAVE FOR OUR CHILDREN!

Please designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. Research is showing more and more how damaging strip mining is. We need to be spending our energies on developing renewable energy instead. Over the last 50 years we have seen too many beautiful natural areas ruined, possibly forever. Stop this one! Thank you.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Emily

I support Alternative 4, with limiting re-mining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Joel Bernstein
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I am in strong support of the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Please enact Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Ros Brain

I support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Natalia Chwilka
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Doug

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

The Culmore's

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jeff Muss

Please consider what the world will be like for your children and grandchildren when you make your choices. Thank you.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>413</td>
<td>I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>414</td>
<td>I am against ANY mining on this land.... PERIOD!!!!!!!!!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>415</td>
<td>Please designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining—Alternative 4. Fossil fuels should stay in the ground and our priceless landscapes should stay intact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>416</td>
<td>***You need to do the RIGHT thing!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>417</td>
<td>This is such beautiful land, I love visiting!! ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. ☐</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sincerely, ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warren Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>418</td>
<td>I support Alternative 4 with limited mining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>419</td>
<td>Protect, protect, protect!! Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>420</td>
<td>I stand with NPCA by voicing my support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Galloway Allbright

---

I'm tired of wealthy companies dictating the land that get's mined all for their personal gain while we all get played that it's somehow for the best of this Country.

STOP USIN LANDS UNSUITABLE FOR MINING! STOP MINING!

PROTECTION NOT PROGRESSION!!!!!!!!!!

We must protect our land and wildlife from being destroyed by mining. Please deny surface coal mining rights on this pristine land.

I would like to encourage your support for Alternative 4 designating 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, and that re-mining old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. Alternative 4 provides the best protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Thank you!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

David Barrett
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Leslie Mackay

What a waste if this happens

I humbly request the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area/Tennessee Lands not be open for surface mining. This wonderful natural recreation area needs to be preserved in its wild state. I thank for consideration of my request.

Susan Davis
Vacationer in Tennessee

This sacred piece of Nature should be preserved.

Please set this whole area aside and do not allow any more of the insidious, deleterious, and greedy extractive industries to ruin this special place!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kathleen Eaton

We must take care of and protect our wild life and natural resources because, without them there is no us. However, it seems some want to see off the world without thought to generations to come because, it won't affect themselves. With no beauty, plant and animal life destroyed there will be no world for anyone. It's time to get smarter not walk backward into the middle ages.

The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are unsuitable for mining.

This is NOT the time to be increasing the amount of coal removed to the atmosphere, especially in this brutal manner.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jackie Demarais

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Martha Carrington

Please consider this petition to protect the environment including wildlife from unsuitable mining in this area. Thanks.

National park lands belong to EVERYONE not just those who want to chop them up for their own profits!!!!! LEAVE THEM ALONE ! Hasn't there been enough damage done already!!!!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Bonnie M. Burke

I wanted to let you know that I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification. You must limit any re-mining of the old sites. They should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This policy will protect the land, the water, the overall environment and the peoples interests.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Carla L
I am writing in support of Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, WITH ONE CRUCIAL IMPROVEMENT- -that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. □

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits. □

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts on this matter. □
The Honorable Tiffany Snyder, former Mayor of Ward, Colorado

I stand with NPCA by voicing my support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- -that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. □

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □

Sincerely, □
Beth Mantiply

The lands are unsuitable and the ecosystem is too important and fragile as part of the symbiotic setting.
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<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>449</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Statement.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas L Wettengel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 450 | Please do the right thing now!                                               |
|     | North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for     |
|     | Mining.                                                                      |
|     | Please protect these lands!                                                 |

| 451 | save the mountains                                                           |
| 452 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,                                    |
|     | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the |
|     | North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining;  |
|     | covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.   |
|     | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining |
|     | of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where |
|     | the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental    |
|     | benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.                |
|     | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land,    |
|     | wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the      |
|     | opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the |
|     | future. These mountains can and should be forever.                           |
|     | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact   |
|     | Statement.                                                                    |
|     | Sincerely,                                                                    |
|     | Bill Britton                                                                  |

| 453 | Please go with alternative 4.                                                |
| 454 | I live in this area and love it so much. Please preserve this beautiful land |
|     | for out future generations. It is so very important for the people who live |
|     | here and the thousands of people who visit every year to hike, canoe, raft    |
|     | and enjoy the beauty of unspoiled nature with their families.                |
|     | Mining in this area would have a terrible economic and well as environmental |
|     | impact.                                                                     |
|     | Thank you for protecting our park lands.                                     |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[Your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

TAKE YOYR GREED ELSWERE

You can’t make pristine wilderness once you ruin it. Look at the spots in the US that have been ruined, forever ruined. Where is the company? Gone. Let them put the mine in their back yard.
The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area is a priceless natural treasure. Unless we, therefore, treasure it by protecting it from such irresponsible exploitation, it will be lost. PLEASE!

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. Their attitude is so refreshing a contrast to that of West Virginia!

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. I would prefer that re-mining not be allowed at all!

This modified Alternative 4 will provide better protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality than the current options. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Lynda Beigel

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Natalie Van Leewijk
<table>
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<tr>
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| 469 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining including all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Mark A Hallett |
| 470 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely, Mark A Hallett |
<p>| 471 | Surface mining in this area will destroy the ecosystem. |
| 472 | Thank You !!!! |</p>
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<td></td>
<td>Katherine Werner</td>
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<td>474</td>
<td>Please keep these lands mine-free. No more mining where rivers are involved.</td>
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<td>475</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td>Michael L. Klausing</td>
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<td>476</td>
<td>The right thing to do.</td>
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|    | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.
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|    | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
|    | Sincerely,
|    | Joseph Wenzel |
| 478 | Here here, I concur with these statements. |
| 479 | **Please declare North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands unsuitable for mining and save this area for us and future generations!** |
| 480 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**
|    | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.
|    | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.
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|    | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
|    | Sincerely,
|    | Howard F White |
| 481 | I agree that N. Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tenn. Lands are not suitable for mining. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Rui Moreira

I am an avid hiker and camper. I support the protection of as much wilderness as possible. I want it around for my children's children.

Please protect out natural environment and its wildlife before it is too late!

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining, and I believe the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I have visited the area from time to time over a period of many years, and would like to see it remain in pristine condition for many years into the future!

Morris G. Huck
Champaign, IL

Save our parks, please

I stand with NPCA and voice my support for alternative 4.

Thank You!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[Your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,
Cherrie Kerwell

We are the caretakers for future generations. Do not destroy the natural beauty of our lands for unnecessary surface mining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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I have read of the beautiful wilderness areas in Tennessee and hope to visit them someday. I also have read of the devastation surface mining can cause to an area, especially the terrible impacts on water and air. I hope you will choose the Alternative that proffers the best environmental protection for this area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Cathy Wyatt
492 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Judith Valentine

493 Mining should not be done in any of our wildernesses, and especially not where it can be a major problem. Our wildlife need better than that. They need to be protected from such endeavors. Please deny permission to do this terrible thing.

494 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

W R Montgomery

495 I strongly support alternative 4, limit re-mining. I is the best for the environment. Thank You Catherine
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Judith Moore

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Fred Granlund

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

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I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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<td></td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I wish I thought anyone would read my comment.</td>
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<td>500</td>
<td>May you find a balanced solution to combine preservation and usage.</td>
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<td>501</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wayne Person</td>
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<td>502</td>
<td>We have to protect what's left.</td>
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<td>ID</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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| 503 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
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This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Gloria Picchetti |
| 504 | I support Alternative 4 to designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial amendment. Re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. |
| 505 | Wildlife management areas should be for wildlife, not mining operations which pollute and destroy habitat. |
| 506 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Robert J. Veltkamp |
<p>| 507 | Clean energy is our future. Destroying our country's beauty is NOT. |
| 508 | From what I have seen on television about the destruction of streams and land below mined mountain tops in the southern Appalachian Mountains, I do not understand why the mining continues. We need to get away from fossil fuels like coal to protect our climate, too. I used to hike in national parks before I had trouble with my feet, and support restricting mountain top mining by deciding that the North Cumberland Management Area Tennessee Lands is unsuitable for the mining. Thank you for your time in reading this comment. |
| 509 | I support Tennessee's position on the unsuitability of land for mining. |</p>
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<tr>
<td>510</td>
<td>Let's protect these areas and leave out destructive mining!</td>
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<td>511</td>
<td>Please do not allow the mountains to be mined. It makes the area look ugly! It also is not good for wildlife or people who love the mountains.</td>
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<td>512</td>
<td>Please preserve this area for future generations without opening it up to mining or other harmful practices.</td>
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<td>513</td>
<td>Please take appropriate action to insure the preservation of All of our National Parks!! We need all parks in order to maintain our way of life. We need both water as well as the ground to truly effect how weel we can life.</td>
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<td>514</td>
<td>save the mountains today</td>
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<td>515</td>
<td>Protect our mountains and wild places</td>
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<td>516</td>
<td>Let this be one of the places that isn't ruined.</td>
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<tr>
<td>517</td>
<td>Why!</td>
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<td>518</td>
<td>Please consider prohibiting the continued destruction of our lands merely for the continued reliance on dirty coal et al. We need to spend the resources on developing green technologies that will more than make up for any loss of jobs in mining. Be truthful with your constituents and explore all options that will go towards this necessary movement!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maxine Dunkelman</td>
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All of this country is part of everyone born here, raised here, living here. We all need to protect it from all dangers, disasters, anything that may or will destroy it.

The Earth is having lots of problems with people trying to distort it and we have to not let this happen here, we must protect and help it heal, help it grow, help it be better than it ever was. It is up to us, the wildlife depends on us. We have to do this. Do it for your children, your grandchildren and those others who follow, do it for the World.

Please protect our wilderness.

If we don't start protecting are environment? There won't be anything left to live for!

Do we have to destroy everything before people are satisfied? Money truly isn't everything.

The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are unsuitable for Mining.

Let's save our natural earth

Many people have fought to leave a legacy for the next generation, so we can enjoy with our family and love ones. Now it's our time to do the same! Let's hope for the best! Keep on doing the right thing!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Please do the right thing and protect this area.

Sincerely,

Shawn Hall

As my wife and I have hiked portions of this scenic area of Tennessee, we urge that alternative 3 be implemented. The resources, natural and cultural, warrant such treatment given the EIS results.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Richard Johnson

Keep nature wild. We need these areas for the health of our great country.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Ms Woehl
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Stacey McDonald

Enough! Mining, especially mountain top removal, has devastated the ecology of this region for approximately two centuries. The return to residents has been next to nothing. When will everyone admit that the trade offs aren't worth it?

I am writing in support of the state of Tennessee's petition - - that North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are Unsuitable for Mining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. With water issues constantly in the headlines (severe draught, poisoning/contamination), it is imperative to protect our water resources for future generations. Have the foresight to protect this wilderness!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Patricia Shearin

Our wildlife areas must be protected

Don't mess with wildlife and their environment!!!!!
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<th>ID</th>
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<tr>
<td>541</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kevin Patterson</td>
</tr>
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</table>

| 542 | North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are meant for wildlife - not extractive mining activities. |

| 543 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, |
|     | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. |
|     | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. |
|     | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. |
|     | One of the wholesome pleasure of life in America is to spend time traversing the land of our public areas without the interference and unsightly mining and polluted waters. Such would be the case should surface mining operations occur in the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreational Area in Tennessee |
|     | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
|     | Sincerely, |
|     | Frank A. Rieger |
|     | Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality. |
|     | Sincerely, |
The designation of "lands unsuitable for mining" means that no new surface coal mining permits can be issued within the designated area. I believe that the ridge lines and connecting corridors within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement fit that designation because:

- Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and,
- Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

Please proceed with these facts clearly in mind.

thank you.

Please approve the State of Tennessee's request.

Save our mountains.

Stop mining in Tennessee

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Katherine L. Prince

I have lived through mountain top removal and strip coal mining, and I am quite fearful for any area thusly ravaged. We must stop coal mining, as it is no longer viable or necessary.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mark Bradley

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Hughes

this area is unsuitable for mining and its destructive consequences to its pristine environment. Please withdraw your attempt to do so.

Please take responsible action to protect North Cumberland Wildlife Mgt Area. Thank you.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

In the past, I have lived in the New River Gorge Nat'l Rec Area, participating the recreational industry as a whitewater raft guide. From that, I know first-hand of the damage to water quality from mining leakage and waste. It severely undermines (no pun intended) the recreational and residential desirability of using and/or living near polluted waterways. Therefore, I strongly support the following comments on this petition:

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Alan P. Brundage

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[Your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

JOHN PETSCO
<table>
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| 556 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □  
Sincerely, □  
Fidel S. Arbolaez |
| 557 | The beauty of our nation should not be destroyed to allow more pollution.  
it seems that whenever a group wants to use important land or water it becomes incumberant upon those who wish to protect the environment toast to save a piece of land or a waterway. it's not enough that these places are obviously important because if someone wants to develop these areas the area is put in danger. □  
very often the lure of jobs trumps any desire to protect our environment. i know there must be a balance between protection and use but the sheer number of people already puts pressure on our planet. □  
the NCWMATL must be protected, these areas are shrinking under the pressure of population expansion and these disappearing areas need protection. □  
thank you for doing the right thing. □  
rob't edwards |
| 559 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □  
Sincerely, □  
William Ryerson |
| 560 | Mining, especially surface mining, is extremely harmful to wildlife and the environment. This is not a viable use for any wildlife management area. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Karen Paul

Please do not allow table top mining. If it were possible to live without mining it would be a perfect world. But table top mining is especially onerous since it destroys so much of everything. The resulting run off, erosion and ugliness is too much to bear if you think about it. Is this what you want the earth to look like in 29 years?

I strongly believe that (modified) Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will also protect people, by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economic future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you,
Michael Levitt

I support Alternative 4, wherein 569 miles of ridge top are declared off limits for surface coal mining with the caveat that remining old sites could only occur where the state of Tennessee and OSMRE can document unequivocal evidence that safety and environmental benefits outweigh the damage which will occur from remining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Nancy Havassy |
| 567 | It is time to keep what land we can so our kids and grandkids can enjoy the out of doors.                                                                                                                                 |
| 568 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Karen Kravcov Malcolm |
| 569 | Pleeaaaeeze . Don't take and give away the public land anymore unto ten generations. It's the only way man will survive. We've reached Man's 56% or more) time on Earth. Let's do the 44% mre slowly so the impact changes aren't so "climactic" for our children, our community our world.. Certainly America Is wonderful enough to know that and to act upon its reverance for family and friends to come.  
Wish I really knew the answer |
| 570 | Please protect the environment.  
I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.  
thankyou, Heather Haverfield |
| 571 | It is important to preserve the headwaters of this pristine watershed. Activity such as surface mining could well destroy the whole watershed with pollution. |
| 572 | I hope this helps! |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Brian Yanke

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jeanene M. Gilmore

More roadless wilderness
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[Your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

Ann Sullivan
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<td>I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. We MUST protect what is left of our environment for future generations.</td>
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|     | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Albanese
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>584</td>
<td>I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.</td>
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<td>OUR PARKS AND WILDLIFE AREAS NEED TO BE PROTECTED FOR ALL.</td>
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| 588 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, |
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|    | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. |
|    | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
|    | Sincerely, |
|    | Wayne R Bamberger |

| 589 | It is sooo important to protect all our public lands and National Parks for this generation and generations to come! |

| 590 | I strongly support designating all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. |
|    | I strongly support Alternative 4 with an addition that any re-mining of old sites should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where both Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. |
|    | We must protect our land, wildlife, and water quality. These mountains can and should be forever. |
|    | Thank you. |

| 591 | I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining. |
|    | Thank-you |
| 592 | North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining. |
| 593 | Save our lands! |
| 594 | Mining may have helped humanity once, but it's now obsolete. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sue Halligan

I am calling on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining and the withdrawal of more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, thus protecting mountain ridgelines, and improving wildlife habitat and water quality in the region.

I stand with NPCA and am voicing my support for Alternative 4 of the Draft Petition, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Thank you.

We need sustainable, non polluting energy. No land is suitable for mining; it is unnecessary in this civilization. Our planet can not afford to continue to pollute the atmosphere, the land and the water. We may not have another chance to save what remains!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Egger

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jerald Vinikoff

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are Unsuitable for Mining. It is important to preserve these lands for animals and people for future generations.

Please preserve this area.

No more assault on the environment. Do not wreck this land.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Rob Seltzer
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Catherine Whiteside

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I grew up in Alabama and often visited these beautiful and historical Tennessee mountains. There is a magic in these mountains and they must be protected. I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Julia Sanford
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[your name here]

I want to express my support for the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region.

Specifically, I want to express my support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Ryan Draper

The ongoing GREED is destroying so much of our beautiful country!!! I'm not for fracking, not for mining, or for factory farming....all of these take a major toll on our great land which we the American people value so much!!!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Bradley Budnik

This land should be preserved and no mining allowed. Enough is enough! Please help to protect this area and disallow the extortion of nature for profit.

Thank you.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Peter Wood

Wildlife management areas are unsuitable for mining!

I voice my support for Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridge line as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with the crucial addendum that re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Keep our mountains safe

Go with #4.

I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- -that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Thank You,
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Christopher Riff

Fossil fuel development is on its way out, time limited, but these mountain lands should be preserved, for ever. We must not be short-sighted in our decision making as we understand how permanent the consequences will be. The North Cumberland must not be raped.

Please protect these lands from fossil fuel extraction. It's time we switch to clean energy sources, help the former fossil fuel workers transition to a new way of making a living and leave the old energy sources in the ground.

Coal need to be left in the ground, to protect the environment. Mountains need to be left alone to protect water shed and nature.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kris

RE: Alternative 4

Protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area! Limit Remining!

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region.

Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

This is such a beautiful stretch of land. Let's preserve it for generations to come!

Sincerely,

Mary McGeary
<table>
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| 627 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

Sincerely,  
B.Evans |
| 628 | Coal is too harmful from an extraction and environmental standpoints. The impact on the air, land, water and natural integrity outweighs the benefits by far. |
| 629 | I support Alternative 4 with the following modification: Limit re-mining to those cases where both the State of Tennessee and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage/harm caused by the process. This provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.  

Thank you |
| 630 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

Sincerely,  
Sonya Myers |
Please carefully consider the basis points of the PED Environmental Impact Statement:

- Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and,
- Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

Look at one of the photographs of Earth taken from the ISS and consider what an incredibly unique and fragile planet we inhabit and what we are doing to and allowing to be done to our home. 67,000 unsullied acres may not seem like much in the grand scheme of things, but once it's gone . . . Qui Bono?

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nasrin Mazuji

Protect the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. These lands need to be protected for the people to enjoy for generations to come.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Engler
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, James Zitis, Holiday, FL.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Janice Wilfing

We must protect our lands from the disgrace of mining where it creates pollution (land, water and air) and as well as destroying nature that can never be restored to what it was prior to the mining. We need to be stewards of the land God gave to us.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

Ref: North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area

Many areas of Tennessee are important but I believe this area holds a distinction in its beauty and variety for camping and hiking. I wish to add my input to your data base. When I lived in Tennessee I found it invigorating to get out into unpolluted and natural areas and this is one of those.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Rachel McCaleb Watts, MSW

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Lands are unsuitable for mining.

Our country does not need another disaster caused by the mining industry. The pollution of our rivers that threaten our drinking water and the natural areas that we enjoy so much. Another disaster like that in Flint, Michigan or a Tennessee River spill is something we do not need.

Thank you for considering my concerns.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I, with my family have holidayed in Tennessee and are shocked to hear of the mining proposal for the Cumberland area.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Lars Grothe

This land is unsuitable for mining.

Also, today we all need to forget about fossil fuels and look for sustainable means of producing energy. Let us restore our wild places, not destroy them.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Darleen Kunz
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Elaine Becker

Please save our land and wildlife.

The surface coal mining, which I understand to be the purpose of this land use proposal, runs contrary to all we now know about the destructive, degrading use of fossil fuels, particularly coal. Not only does its use as a fuel threaten air, water and land, the mining industry itself will do the same. The destruction of beautiful wild lands for short-term economic gains is not in our interest, not now and certainly not for future generations. Please protect these lands from exploitation.
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| 649| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
 I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
 I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
 This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
 Sincerely,  
 Joyce Cormier |
| 650| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
 For well over over twenty years, I have been appalled at the assault on our mountains to extract coal. With climate change now a certainty, there are even more reasons to leave in the ground in addition to protecting the remarkable biodiversity of our southeastern ecosystem.  
 Therefore, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
 I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
 This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
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<td>Sincerely, Matthew Skinner</td>
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<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer- -</td>
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<td>Sincerely, Scott Jennings</td>
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Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hubbard

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement— that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Surface mining is a very destructive process which will destroy the ecosystem, pollute the air and water, and result in a wasteland that can never come close to resembling the natural beauty of the mined area. We don't need coal. There are many clean alternatives for providing energy.

The only benefit in doing this is the profit reaped by those who sponsor it.

This area should be left untouched for the benefit of all — the plants, animals, and future generations.

I refer you to the photographs of mountain top removal sites in West Virginia. This is not "America the beautiful."

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Are Unsuitable for Mining. Protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area!

In the Summer of 1986, I spent time in the Southern Appalachians, with the Appalachian Ministries Association out of Berea College in Kentucky, studying the terrible destruction of the mountain tops by coal mining operations and the destruction of the land in general, by long-wall mining, where people's homes would sink into the earth. Here it is more than a quarter of a century later and this is still going on! This mutilation of the earth must stop!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be a treasure for generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

David K Story

Please do not allow mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. I strongly believe in protection of what we have left in wild places. Don’t you? Our planet is being abused. We need to stand up for her natural beauty.

I support the state of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; this should cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Please preserve the headwaters of this important river and remove the necessary land from ever being mined in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

Let’s SAVE the beautiful earth.

This land is too precious, too delicate, and too important to be destroyed by a mining operation!

A wildlife management area should never be used for mining.

Mining disrupts the ecosystem, frequently leads to toxins in the environment, interferes with the animals’ ability to live a normal life; often resulting in death or depletion of the species.

Regarding the threat to North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, CAN NOTHING BE SAVED? Do not sacrifice long-term opportunity for short-term gain. The human greed has gone too far already. Keep Tennessee natural to attract future recreational opportunities before it’s too late.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

Please protect the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area for future generations. Do NOT allow Fossil Fuel to ruin the area forever.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Elaine Fischer

Unsuitable for mining.

keep the land free the way it is now. we are killing the planet now because of all the wildness and lands with trees in it being destroyed. so stop it.

It is important to protect the watersheds of our rivers.

We need to take care of our lakes and mountains.

This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is accepting public comments on alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this petition, and my comments are needed by Monday, January 25th.

We are standing with NPCA by voicing our support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement -- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Take Action: We are telling the Office of Surface Mining that we support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.
I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Steven Smith
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Timothy Shivers

Protect this irreplaceable place! No mining!

Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining. Coal is being phased out so why destroy more land. Do the right thing and leave the land alone

Please keep the Big South Fork National River a wild area

Stop destroying the environment

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jill Nicholas

To allow any type mining in this phenomenal area would be beyond unconscionable.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
JoAnn

Don’t ruin our precious mountains!! Keep them around for generations to come! Don’t destroy such a beautiful habitat!!

Efforts should be going into sustainable energy, not fossil fuels especially at the cost of beautiful areas.

Sincerely,
JoAnn

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Justin McCullough
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</table>
| 687 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Theodore Bahn |
| 688 | Keep the integrity of our parks  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with the critical modification that any re-mining of old sites can be approved only in limited to those sites where the state and OSMRE agree that the safety and environmental benefits outweigh the potential damage.  
This modification will protect the wildlife, environment, water and the people. These mountains should be forever! |
| 689 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Theodore Bahn |
| 690 | I support Alternative 4 with the provision of limited re-mining.  
Please take a stand to protect this fragile, historic area from the damage inflicted from mining operations. As Americans we must set aside these areas for our children and grandchildren!  
I support article 4 and I know it will pay off in tourism and pride as well as the long term health of our planet and of Tennessee. please leave the mountains in place and save the waters that these operations would pollute as the always do. thanks. wgr |
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jason Nardell

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I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Dozier

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you.

Stephanie Dozier

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Please protect our natural resources and wildlife habitat. Thank you.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Amy Heyneman

This surface mining will damage the environment of public lands. Further coal is shown to be contributing to climate change and should no longer be mined.

This is public land that is set aside for the sake of saving the environment including wildlife. It should be exempt from horrific effects of industry and development!! I'm appalled that you would even consider allowing the degradative activity of Mining on public lands!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Chuck Graver

if nature dies WE die god gave us the once pristine perfect biosphere as a show of his love for us and we DESTROY IT!!..UNACCEPTABLE and WE wont have it anymore!! enough is enough of this sh@$!!..you cant live breathe eat and drink money..if YOU wont protect it then WE WILL by force!

No mining!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert C Patrick

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I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I donate to a lot of places mostly for animals as well as Arbor Day. What I have to say is this; all of the parks around the world are important to not only wildlife but to us as well. To go and destroy such a beautiful land for something that is just going to destroy the land and the wildlife is just a disgrace. These lands have been around for so long and are a part of everyday as well as to a part of every person’s life. Why destroy such a place of beauty for a profit. All of the stuff that is there was created there for a reason and that’s that.

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining.

Stop destroying all nature for the profits of a few filthy rich.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Marliese Bonk

Let's do the right thing. Which is to protect the land from mining.

The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, Tennessee Lands, is totally unsuitable for mining or any other habitat destruction activities. Worse, this is a commercial operation that should not be allowed to disrupt any public lands. Do not allow any of this proposal to proceed.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I wholeheartedly support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever, as opposed to the permanent destruction caused by and resulting from mining.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Steve Vogel

When I was growing up our family took many camping trips I am now 66 and those trips have been imbedded in my memory from the humbling wonder in Muir Woods warring an eagle in flight in Yellowstone or the ethereal beauty of Yosemite it taught me to have a deep and abiding respect for our natural wonders it would be a sin to allow any mining to be allowed there and destroy yet another beautiful place in our country. Please reconsider and keep this the pristine and wonderous place it s and always should be.

I support Alternative 4 to protect ridgeline that is unsuitable for surface coal mining.

Mining will destroy the environment & citizens health and well being.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Lois Galloway
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Naomi Klass
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Linda Fay Sampson

Growing up in East Tennessee, and now living in Houston but visiting home often, the mountains have always been my favorite thing about Tennessee. Please protect them. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Kristina
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert Hasselbrink

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Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Rasche
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Richard Parish

Save our National Park's from I support alternative 4!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Steve Iverson

I suggest you take step 4 and limit remining.
Please keep the beauty of this nation. we need it for future generations.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Paul and Gudrun Wright

Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft - see details. These lands are unacceptable for mining projects. Please avoid utilizing them.

Stop the mining. It's destructive for the air, land, sea, animals and humans.
No more mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael Dorer
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Ruth McVey

This would have a horrible effect on Wildlife & Natural Beauty!

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Surface Mining is ruinous to the environment. The damage done to this precious spot of beautiful land would be possibly permanent. It would be better preserved as an oasis for humans and as the natural habitat for animals living there than serve the needs of the coal mining industry.

We love to go horseback riding in the area and love the natural beauty.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely, Mark & Patricia Shore
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Jeane Harrison

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Marianne Fasano
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sandra Murray

My wife and I thoroughly enjoy this area. It is nearby our home and we have visited it three times. Please protect the Big South Fork area.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Joan Zawaski

enough mining already!

Please do not allow these Tennessee lands to be mined on.

Keep it in the ground.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Roberta Tomeucci

Please protect the valuable North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Too much of Tennessee has already fallen victim to strip mining and coal mining.

Protect our wildlife regions

Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and,

Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

What you do in Tennessee affects everyone. Kindly stop raping the land and work on taking care of the earth.

With coal being used less and less because of its pollution and increased deaths due to aggravating lung diseases, we need to stop mining. This pristine area can be saved for other uses and would be destroyed by strip mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Vernon Wedow

Do the right thing!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Judy Bensinger
The Draft Environmental Impact Statement would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in our region. The above named national organization strongly supports the Draft proposal. We have been working for several years on mining issues and speak on behalf of several consumer and faith groups. Our testimony over the years has been extensive and thorough as your research will find. We have discussed environmental, social and economic benefits from enforcement of realistic regulations.

Recreation is important in the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. Visitors to the counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits. Cumberland County & neighboring communities also depend on natural beauty, clean water, recreational facilities, etc. for quality of life and sustainable development.

We support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one very important improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. We believe that this improvement provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Thank you.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Cori Bishop

Growing up in PA, I know firsthand the damage done by mining. At this point, we need to heal the land around us, not destroy it!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The North Cumberland wildlife management area lands are best left for wildlife, which is incompatible with mining.

I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. I stand with NPCA by voicing my support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Please adopt Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Sincerely,

John E Huerta

I support Alternative 4
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Aron Rolnitzky
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Beth Nelson

I would think that Wildlife Management Area Lands are by definition, unsuitable for mining!

I am writing in support of the draft PED/EIS.

I support Alternative 4, provided that if old mines are considered for reopening, a another careful environmental study be done because conditions and technology change over time.

Save the wildlife management area.

Mining is an environmental disaster.

Why is it that man destroys everything in this world! And it's always about the green god of money! Money is the root of all evil!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I have seen first hand the devastation brought about by strip mining and the dumping of overburden. While that is always deplorable, it is unconscionable in a wildlife management area.

Please save these beautiful areas for future generations. We need to turn our attention to renewable energy sources and economically, the benefits of recreational activity will outweigh destructive mining.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>779</td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>780</td>
<td>please do not allow mining companies to enter this beautiful land. we have so few places as this and we need to hang on to them as long as we can. lets not allow economic pressures destroy everything that actually fits global warming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>781</td>
<td>Do not do it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>783</td>
<td>No mining - leave land pristine as God made it!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>784</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>785</td>
<td>As an admirer and frequent visitor of you lovely state, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>786</td>
<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>787</td>
<td>This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>788</td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>789</td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>790</td>
<td>Patricia McKelvie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>791</td>
<td>500 summit creek dr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>792</td>
<td>Smithfield, UT 84335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>785</td>
<td>I stand with the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you. Please protect with national asset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>786</td>
<td>I am in favor of Alternative 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>787</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As a former Tennessee resident I feel compelled to protect a beautiful state I enjoyed spending time exploring the wonderful countryside and forests. Tennessee’s water, forests and landscapes are worth protecting from damaging surface mining. It is far better to mitigate mining now than to pay extensively for repairs to damaged lands later. Some damages are un-repairable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heidi Snell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>788</td>
<td>DO NOT CONTINUE TO ALLOW VIOLENT MISHANDLING OF OUR COUNTRY’S EARTH AND MINERALS AND WATER! DO NOT BE AN ENEMY TO OUR SURVIVAL, BUT BE A FRIEND AND ALLY AND SUPPORTER! DO YOUR JOBS AND DO THEM RIGHT!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dorothy Wilkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>789</td>
<td>Stop giving away our National Parks for profits and campaign contributions (bribes) to our representatives. They are for the citizen not corporations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>790</td>
<td>It’s too beautiful for mining! And what about the animals!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>791</td>
<td>I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>792</td>
<td>This area is unsuitable for mining. Please protect it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>793</td>
<td>Save the mountains!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>794</td>
<td>Please protect the mountains from destructive mining now!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>795</td>
<td>Stop destroying the land for the sake of big, unscrupulous business</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dale Bryan mattes

---

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

---

I support Alternative 4, which designates over 550 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for strip mining for coal with the addition that re-mining old sites will be approved only in limited cases where the State and OSMRE agree that safety and environmental benefits outweigh the damage caused by the process. thanks for considering my opinion.

---

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Visitors, including myself, go to these areas to be in nature, we do not want surface mining to be part of that view.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Susan Blount

---

Please declare Tennessee Lands unsuitable for mining. We need to care for our earth not misuse it.
ID | Correspondence
---|---
801 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, J Beverly

802 | Surface mining would devastate the beauty of this area and the health of nearby residents.

803 | I support the position of the NPCA and the State of Tennessee as follows:

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Donald Wilson

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Beth Sommerfeld
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

PLEASE DON'T FUCK THIS UP.

Sincerely,

Aaron Fumarola

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining and water extraction for water privatization and private corporate profit. We must protect the watersheds and the pristine nature of these precious bioregions.

Thank you

Vicki Gold

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. Tennessee is a beautiful state that my fiance and I love to visit. It would be a shame to destroy even some of that beauty.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Perri

This constant destruction of the earth’s integrity must stop before we reach a point when nothing can be corrected. This earth should be here for generations if we learn to care for it as much as we do our bank accounts. Rev. Charles

PLEASE...do not destroy the environment by allowing destructive mining practices.
I support Alternative 4 for its designation of 569 miles of ridgeline deemed unsuitable for surface coal mining operations. This beautiful area with its headwaters character warrants such protection. Also I wish to urge that re-mining in old sites within this protected area should only be allowed with agreement by the State of Tennessee and the Office of Surface Mining Recleamation and Enforcement that safety and environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the costs of damage through mining. I believe in the highest level of protection for this area. We must work doubly hard to save our natural heritage and the beauty that does great good for those who come for recreation there. I know natural regions with their abundance of plant and wildlife offer benefits beyond what we can assess even with all we already know about such benefits. The current issue of the National Geographic Magazine (January, 2016) speaks of the benefits to human brains in exposure to natural resources. That and much more is offered by preservation. I urge the strongest commitment possible to such benefits and such preservation.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

East Tennessee is a wonderland. I loved living in that space between the Cumberland Plateau and the Smokies during my youth. It should all be protected. It will be worth much more in the future than anything they can scrape off those hills to get what we really don't need.

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are Unsuitable for Mining - please protect our earth! Look for alternatives from mining.

Keep this pristine wild-land wild! Once developed it can never be reclaimed to its original beauty!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nacy A. Hoffman

US Government... best government corporations can buy!
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

O Lewis

819

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4, with the critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

I believe that this modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for your consideration.

820

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

David L. Smith MD
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>821</td>
<td>Our National parks are over crowded and we must protect all the remaining beautiful areas of our country for future generations. Many studies have proven that park tourism provides millions of dollars to every town and city located close to all major parks. Please remove this area from mining!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>822</td>
<td>Let's not become another China. They remove mountains and destroy the natural world. Now they can't breathe the air and their economy is a disaster that is even harming us. The materials extracted would soon be used up and the mountain destroyed forever. This must not happen. Keep the mountain free of mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>823</td>
<td>These lands are unsuitable for mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>824</td>
<td>No mining in this great forest and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>825</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Jamie Castaneda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>826</td>
<td>I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>827</td>
<td>Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems. Surface coal mining is no longer an efficient energy option.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>828</td>
<td>Nature is not for us to destroy but to cherish and protect. There must be research done in earnest to find a sustainable, earth-friendly energy source. Mary Christman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 829 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**

Both as a biologist and as a family member concerned about the future, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Moreover I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Much of our living planet has already been destroyed - we must try and save the natural areas left so future generations can rely upon them and the benefits they give.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Lou Baxter |

| 830 | Leave pristine lands untouched, keep the mining out — — |
| 831 | I promise to come and visit this area in Tennessee if you pick Alternative 4 (and bring my friends)! It looks pristine and beautiful. Thank you for doing the right thing. |
| 832 | P.S. I heard about this through NPCA. |
| 833 | We must save what is left of our natural resources and use our human intelligence to find other options for energy and materials. If not, will the coming generations of all species be able to survive? |
| 834 | Please protect our natural areas for all of us and our future children to enjoy. Another way must exist other than destroying our natural beauty, resources and wildlife. Invest in research to find alternatives rather than destruction. |
| 835 | I support plan B. The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area is not suitable for mining. Short-term benefits are so outweighed by the negatives. I urge you to do the best for this area. America is watching. |
| 836 | I am an avid hiker and camper. I see our wild recreational areas as crucial to the American way of life that I hold dear, and an economic security for our communities. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I am writing to express my support of the Great State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as lands unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dee Colombini

---

Please protect the beautiful North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area lands from mining and development.

I support alternative 4.

As populations continue to grow and the effects of man made climate change grow, we must redouble our efforts to protect the wilderness especially from efforts to extract fossil fuels and using such harmful methods as fracking. We must follow the science and not greed as well as care for future generations.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Maria Kiernan

DO NOT ALLOW GREED TO BE TRIUMPHANT.

I support alternative 4 because it removes 76,000 acres from surface mining, protects mountain ridgelines, and improves wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. Once gone, these lands will never recover. We need to protect these area for our grandchildren.
Dear Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Susan Hendricks

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

C. n. ganMoryn
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Liz Tymkiw

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I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

Thank you!

Terri L Betz

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LEAVE THE BEAUTY OF TENNESSEE FOR ALL OF US     DO NOT DESTROY WITH DIGGING MOUNTAIN TOP REMOVALS......................WHILE REVIEWING LOOK AT CURRENT EXCAVATIONS NOT RECLAIMED BY THE EXCAVATIONS........WITH CURRENT ECONOMY AND COAL COMPANY BANKRUPTCY CAN THE STATE FORCE RECLAIMATIONS WITH A PERFORMANCE BOND PRIOR TO DIG ?????????????????????????????????????

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

David L. Smith MD
I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

We must protect ALL public land from commercial exploitation. Corporations already have access to vast amounts of private land that they may and do exploit. Public lands must be left to do what commercial ventures will NEVER do. Alternative 4 with slight modification is the only reasonable option. However it is important to carefully evaluate any applications to reopen existing mines, and carefully assess if the benefits TRUELY outweigh the harm. The fossil fuel industry has never paid the TRUE cost of their dirty business, reaping obscene profits while passing the damages on to future generations.

Please preserve these mountains and valleys for the generations ahead to enjoy. The state of Tennessee has fewer areas to protect than in the West where I live.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

No mining or resource extraction of any kind should be permitted in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area in Tennessee. That wildlife preserve is for us people to help protect nature, which is under threat from climate crisis, global warming due to the fossil fuel burning, and the greed of the corporate/wealthy speculators in fossil resources.

Nature is our resource; leave her alone. Develop the renewable sources of energy nature gives us!

Greed and deceit should not dictate public policy. Thank you for your consideration.

I support/Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Just say NO to fracking!!!!!! Do you need the money that much?!!!?

Wildlife Management Area Lands are unsuitable for Mining. Seems like you want to destroy every wildlife area in the world. Don't do it.

I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

I am asking that the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area be designated as unsuitable for surface mining.

Don't spoil the natural beauty of this wild land we love. Preserve it for all future generations.
Considering the decline of the coal industry, I suspect option #4 is by far the most rational. Why degrade more mountain ridges during the death throes of an industry?  

Sincerely,

A N Lenz

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Janet Leavell

The head waters are ALWAYS a dangerous place to start something, especially if it involves chemicals and contamination.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Scott Burger

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

I sincerely believe that we need to move away from dependence upon coal as a source of energy because of the way it contributes to climate. This country should support more forms of renewable energy and that this endeavor will server to create more jobs in the clean energy sector that will be lost by eliminating the mining and use of coal in our power plants.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Wayne Truax

I support the State’s assertions that the lands in question are unsuitable for surface coal mining. The need exists to curtail all such ventures and keep the remaining fossil fuels in the ground and move our nation toward renewable sources of energy.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.
870

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Sondgerath

871

I don't want mining on this national site. I want protection for nature, wildlife, trees and vegetation! We need those trees to make oxygen for us to breathe. We don't need toxic mines! This land belongs to 325 million people. Respect it for them and their kids.

872

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michelle Stepp
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. With that approve for re-mining in VERY LIMITED cases there must be researched proof by independent scientific institution that the re-mining will not harm the environment.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge-lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge-lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Cramer

Why do some people want to destroy everything beautiful.

This area would be completely disrupted in terms of mountain range stability and it terms of habitat degradation. The amount of material to be mined could not be worth the harm caused.

Nothing on Earth can replace a mountain.

Leave what is natural and beautiful for our generation and generations to come to enjoy, and to also mention the wildlife who depend on these little spaces of land left as their natural habitats. We have a responsibility to care for more than just ourselves and our pockets... Money can't buy back life or Mother Nature...

Strip mining has been shown to create environmental costs which are greater than the value of the goods derived from the process. The protection of wild land and its beauty is beyond price. These lands draw people from all walks of life into the natural world. Please protect them.

This land is not suitable for mining.

I will never forget the first time I visited your beautiful state. That was decades ago. Never before had I been in the mountains, they were breath taking. Give our future generations the same opportunity, save the mountains!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Alexander Honigsblum
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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| 884 | Please save our natural wonders.  
     Tim |
| 885 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
     I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
     I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
     This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
     Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
     Sincerely,  
     Nikolaos Milonas |
| 886 | America needs to switch to renewable energy sources.  
 887 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
     You can easily see the mistakes of the past as you fly over lands we've allowed strip mined. There are ugly scars where lush co2 giants thrived that maintained life. We can stop this, you and I. I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
     I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
     This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
     Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
     Sincerely,  
     Jean Spencer |
| 888 | No mining in wildlife habitat.  
 889 | Keep it in the ground! |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Joanne Hattum

Please do not grant this precious area for mining.

Thank you.

Edward Chanon

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Michael Lee
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

This is a beautiful part of the United States that we should preserve in a much of it's natural state as possible. Surface mining is an eye sore that will impair this beauty.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth A. Stout

As a species that was dependent on oil and coal, it is time to rid ourselves of this toxic materials before we permanently damage this fragile system of ours and other that share this planet.

I am writing to entreat you to preserve this extraordinary wild area from logging, grazing, mining, and all human activity that holds the promise of devastating this natural habitat.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jerry Jorgenson

Please leave the land as is!

Please protect the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area.

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

It is not suitable for mining and needs to remain pristine for future generations. Thanks.
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

As an archaeologist, I have surveyed thousands of acres of reclaimed mined lands. The people and animals have moved away. For archaeologists, what is left are the abandoned buildings. Once fertile pastures are dune-like sand. All of the vegetation has been replaced by a limited variety of trees which are supposed to reclaim mined soils. But they are stunted in growth--even a dozen years after reclamation has started. One man told me that the topsoil is gone, what is left is sterile subsoil, and it is 20 feet deep. Even the animals who once lived in forests along the edges of farms were gone. Mined lands are emotionally devastating to see. They are dead, and it will be a hundred years before the soils can be restored.

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement--that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.
<table>
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</table>
| 906 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Llinas |
| 907 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Ormond A. Sabans |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Samantha
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

John Hess

The Cumberland area is already very compromised by the toxic and crudely destructive cola mining. It is time to cease this despoilation of our environment and watersheds. This region is highly important from a wildlife, forest resource and historical/cultural basis. Please declare the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Julia Knight
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Elaine Green

---

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Milan Vigil

---

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

---

No wildlands or areas not under private ownership should be mined or otherwise debased for oil, gas, minerals or any other substance. leave them alone, and focus on renewables,
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Elsbeth H meier

I have traveled to Tennessee twice in last three years, the state and wild life is to beautiful to destroy this way.

It is time to stop the ravaging of our environment in this country.

This area is beautiful! Please preserve it so that future generations may enjoy it.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Albertsen

Please halt mining on these grounds!

These are Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining!!!

Let's leave native lands stay unworked. We, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, etc. need them!

I'm irritated that I'm required to post 'comments' when I prefer not to. Either you want my support or you don't but don't coerce me about how I do it.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be prevented as much as possible.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

NO MINING IN NORTH CUMBERLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TENNESSEE LANDS

North Cumberland is not a mine shaft, open pit....
Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Please pay attention..this is very important!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Marcina Motter

PRIORITY 1...Full protection of our wildlands! Please. Get business out of our wilderness areas & wildlife areas.

I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one important change: that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process.

I strongly support alternative 4.

Thank you.

Mark Aflatooni

Please protect that beautiful environment, especially in these days it's necessary to do a all we can.

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining

Mountains are beautiful; they are weather breeders; mountains are a source of water flowing freely in streams; mountains have trees which absorb carbon, provide timber for homes and every sort of building; mountains are a part of God's creation, a storehouse of energy and home to an incredible number of animals and bird species. Mountains are indispensable to earth, sky and sea. Mountains are a necessity for humankind to survive. Please preserve the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area in Tennessee.

Thank you.

Please protect the Big South Fork.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Joshua Seff

---

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

---

Do not destroy natural beauty. Strip mining has devastated every place it has been used. Rivers, valleys and environment has been destroyed health and affected. There is a big move to leave coal in the ground, where it belongs. Declare these lands unfit for mining and let generations to come enjoy the beauty. Thank you.

---

We need cleaner ways of energy. No longer need the coal & would like to see the landscape back to where we can hike camp or just mosey though again. Please remove these miners & give us our land back.

Sincerely,
Paul Mann
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mark Hollinrake

---

I strongly urge to have this wilderness protected at all costs, devoid of the intrusion of big polluters and lobbyists. We have deal with this kind of injustice for too long after seeing so much natural landscapes being torn down to make room for a parking lot. People like the Koch Brothers think their money can get them whatever they but it will be their downfall. For the sake of Big fork, we shall fight fiercely to protect from any harm that would come to it.

Please help protect the big South Fork!

Please do not destroy this beautiful natural area for coal interests which will only make climate change worse.

15 of the 16 hottest years in history happened in the last 15 years.

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[Joseph Haemmerle]
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I have traveled through numerous states where mining has destroyed the land and what is left is acid soil. There is no wildlife and the scene is depressing as the land has not recovered. Water quality is always impacted due to the extraction methods and the site is always left in complete chaos. In addition, the mosquitoes increased in two of the sites making recreation nearly impossible.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nancy Church

NO MORE MINING! WHAT ARE WE, INSANE??!

Our past experience shows US exactly how this type of mining ends up. Poisoning our water, our environment and our citizens, We the people pay with subsides, our health and in a lot of cases our lives. Please do not start another windfall for big business take care of US people.

Please preserve our environment.

Just do it.

Please preserve the serenity and tranquility of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

As a native Kentuckian, I have long been aware of what strip mining does to the land, the waters, the air, and to the lives of those people who inhabit the area nearby. Please do not permit more land to be destroyed by companies who strip mine and destroy mountains in the process. Please stop strip mining now.

I stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—-that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

For too long, humans have ravaged wildlands all over the world to extract natural resources, with absolutely NO regard for the living creatures (humans AND otherwise) who need "pristine" wilderness to survive. This behavior MUST end before there are no wildlands left. Humans need these lands too, so we can connect to the natural world and remember we are a part of it. This too, is in danger of being forgotten. Modified Alternative 4 is the best way to do this in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

Finally, we MUST move away from all fossil fuels to save the planet, ourselves, and all life on earth. We must find a way to extract other resources WITHOUT destroying the land and its creatures.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Melissa D. Kallick, MD

God bless you in Jesus’s holy name!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

David A. Smith
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Carol L Collins

Not all rivers should be dammed and used. This one should be protected.


YOU ARE NOT GOD.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Janet Parkins
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Shonna Davis
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Kevin Corwin

Please don't turn this beautiful area into a wasteland. Its important to have the natural beauty of this country of ours preserved for future generations to come and to share this land with animals of all kinds. they need a place to live also!!!

Keep this headwaters land free from mining.

Mountain removal destroys life, contaminates streams, and the damage takes millennia to undo, if it can ever be undone.

Parks are our national treasures.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>985</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administration Officer, I have lived in Colorado since 1959 and have spent a lot of time hiking and exploring old mining sites in the mountains. I have seen first hand the probably unintended, but lasting impact the mining operations have had on the land and water. It is not good! Therefore, I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Earl McVey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>986</td>
<td>Please do allow mining on this beautiful area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>987</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Jared Cornelia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>988</td>
<td>Please, please, please - - no mining or any further exploitation of this beautiful earth. Thank you!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

Many years ago when our children were young we spent a day in the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. The kids loved it and my wife and I thought it was beautiful. It far exceeded my expectations.

Because of this experience I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Curt Hillstrom

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in No. Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining covering all ridgelines.

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kyri Freeman
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jan McCreary
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Joe Vinski
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

D S

Please do not mine on our beautiful planet.

Save the mountains, please
Thank you
Carole

We need all the trees left standing!

Please stop the mining I know the damage it did to this area. Finally the mining companies had to fix what they destroyed. Please don't let it happen again; they couldn't fix all the damage done only part of it.

Thank you & have a blessed day,

Nancy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1001</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Please support Alternative 4.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement and for your consideration in this matter.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anna Marie Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1002</td>
<td>National Parks should never be opened to mining, especially mountain top removal mining and fracking. Many thousands of people enjoy the parks where they can witness wildlife, enjoy the natural beauty or fish and hunt. These preserves have to be kept in immaculate conditions, which any industrial mining would destroy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1003</td>
<td>Protect out mountains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1004</td>
<td>We are supposed to be the good shepherds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1005</td>
<td>I would merely like to add that ANY surface mining anywhere in the country is no longer appropriate. This proposal needs to be approved so that the environment we have is not any further degraded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1006</td>
<td>These projects will take away from the United States People a natural resource that can never be duplicated not returned. This is like poisoning ourselves. Take a lesson from the Flint River tragedy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1007</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Torben</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Tom Beatini

---

Keep the coal in the ground. It is time to stop using coal as a source energy.

Whatever we save today is all we'll ever be able to save.

As a child I grew up going to parks and living with nature. It wasn't until I was older that I realized what devastation we put upon this Great Country of ours. I feel like I'm living in another world without any chance to recover. You have to stop making money off of mining coal, or gold whatever you think will make you rich. You are killing the Planet. Invest in solar, hydroelectric anything that doesn't destroy Earth.

Mike Tennant

We must protect the Mountains, the Forest, the Land and the environment for the present and the future. If not why else are we here?

Please designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. I stand with NPCA by in support of Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
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| 1015| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □  
I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □  
Sincerely, □  
Dr. Barbara Sneath |
| 1016| Just stop!                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1017| North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft Petition Evaluation Document / Environmental Impact Statement |
| 1018| We must protect the Mountains, the Forest, the Land and the environment for the present and the future. If not why else are we here?                                                                                                           |
| 1019| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □  
I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
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This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □  
Thank you for your time, for your consideration, and for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
| 1020| My family settled in northeast TN before we were a country. It saddens me to no end that pure greed would alter the legacy to our descendants and dishonor our ancestors. I don’t have words enough to express my absolute amazement at the callousness of corporations. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Brincka

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Adam Williams
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| 1023 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Laureen Mitchell |

| 1024 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Thomas H Boswell

I agree with alternative #4. all mining on the ridgeline in and around this beautiful fresh water supply and natural diversity should not be allowed. it is a fuel that has far passed its usefulness in our present day society. it is destructive not only to the geological integrity of the area but also would create a level of contamination that would not be retrievable for thousands of years. I have been to the area and photographed its beauty all the times on the way to the smoky mnts.n.p.

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Paula Zerzan
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I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever preserved for future generations - once destroyed they can't be reclaimed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Tom Adams
Oak Park IL
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<th>ID</th>
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<tr>
<td>1032</td>
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<td>Statement.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maude A. Laslie</td>
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</table>

| 1033| Protect our earth, please.....                                              |
| 1034| Stop destroying Tennessee's heritage for quick cash!                       |
| 1035| This is not the direction our country needs to go with energy. I am currently |
|     | in the middle of an accounting nightmare due to the August bankruptcy filing |
|     | by Alpha Natural Resources, one of the nation's largest coal mining and      |
|     | refining companies. Please do not allow more coal mining to happen here or   |
|     | anywhere. Thank you.                                                        |
| 1036| Wildlife areas are never to be used for mining or any other greedy purpose   |
|     | except for Wildlife. Mining has Nothing at All to do with Wildlife          |

| 1037| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,                                    |
|     | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the |
|     | North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining;  |
|     | covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.   |
|     |                                                                             |
|     | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining |
|     | of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where |
|     | the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental   |
|     | benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.                |
|     |                                                                             |
|     | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land,    |
|     | wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the     |
|     | opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in   |
|     | the future. These mountains can and should be forever.                       |
|     |                                                                             |
|     | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact  |
|     | Statement.                                                                  |
|     | Sincerely, Eric M. Punkay, Ph.D.                                            |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Vic Berry

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Laura Furman
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Katherine Wagner

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Marie Regan
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Mackey

Less mining and more wildlife habitat and wild lands for recreation and enjoyment.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

David Fiedler
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| 1045 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □  
|   | □ I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
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|   | □ This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □  
|   | □ Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □  
|   | □ Sincerely, □  
|   | Scott Species □  
|   | sspecies@yahoo.com |
| 1046 | Stop the greed and take care of the land! |
| 1047 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □  
|   | □ I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
|   | □ I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □  
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|   | □ Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □  
|   | □ Sincerely, □  
|   | Michelle Eaton |
| 1048 | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
|   | □ I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □  
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|   | □ Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □  
|   | □ Sincerely, Richard Dockter |
| 1049 | The North Cumberland wildlife management area should be deemed unsuitable for mining. |
| 1050 | Please support the LUM petition. Thank you. |
Please preserve the South Fork by declaring these sensitive areas as "lands unsuitable for mining" (LUM). Such a designation would mean that no new surface coal mining permits could be issued within the designated area. Thank you.

I'm asking you to protect these lands.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jordan Lewis

I love my Great Smokies, my sister's Blue Ridge, and my college roommate's Rocky Mountains. I loved traveling through the Ozarks, the Pocono's, and the Sierra Nevada's.

They are in danger. Mining (especially strip mining), commercialism, and even th by too tourist wanting only to see the beauty, but national parks that are just too under funded. Then there are the forest fires that increases erosion.

We need to be better stewards of what we have, or risk losing them.

I am very much in favor of withdrawing over 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

I prefer Alternative 4 which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, but it needs one crucial improvement: re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process.

With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Please hose Alternative 4 but with the improvement I've indicated. Thank you.

Protect our land for the sake of future generations
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Debra Rehn</td>
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<td>1058</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>1059</td>
<td>Dear Sir/Madam,</td>
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<td>I am standing with NPCA by voicing my support for Alternative 4 (the</td>
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<td>for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.</td>
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<td>Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in</td>
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<td>Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with</td>
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<td>polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4</td>
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<td>million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state</td>
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<td>and local tax benefits.</td>
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<td>Thank you for your attention,</td>
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<td>Dr Lindsay sharp</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Topanga Action Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>1060</td>
<td>Beautiful beautiful land - let it be!</td>
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<td>1061</td>
<td>These lands cannot be restored once destroyed. Think in the long range.</td>
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<td>1062</td>
<td>Mining can be very harmful to the environment. I support #4 with no re-</td>
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<td>mining.</td>
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<td>1063</td>
<td>Please preserve the North Cumberland Wildlife area, no mining.</td>
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<td>1064</td>
<td>Surface mining does not have the capability (despite their claims) of</td>
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<td>controlling pollution of water, and avoiding destruction of our natural</td>
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<td>lands without adequate restoration. One more wild place does not need to be</td>
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<td>destroyed in the name of corporate profit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1065</td>
<td>This land belongs to the citizens of the US and is not to be spoiled by the</td>
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<td></td>
<td>mining companies.</td>
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</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Peter Gunther

I support Alternative 4, as Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Why would you NOT protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area? Mining company profits are not worth destruction of such a special place.

It’s long past time to bring common sense to every decision made regarding the recovery of any source for fuel or energy anywhere across America. Careful supervision after giving permission to harvest under ground sources should be required and continuous throughout the process.

CJM Alden

As a native of the area, I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. Once they are gone, they are gone! I'm just a tree hugger who save the forests and beauty of the Tennessee wildernes.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Richard Moody

Designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

STOP DESTROYING THE WORLD!!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Carol Ohlendorf
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Chris Heuman

Do it.

You are killing all of us!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael Nutini

Protect our beautiful parks.

Protected areas should not be open to private organizations, businesses or corporations for exploitation. We have done enough already to destroy our earth.

Destroying mountains and the land on - around them is devastating to the land and the people who reside in the surrounding area. At this time, considering all the immeasurable harm we humans have done to this earth; we should be thinking, and doing, anything/everything that we possibly do to preserve, protect - heal. Have we become so greedy that we lost all humanity? Do corporations have no caring for the harm they do, what beauty will NOT be left to our children and grandchildren?

I have relatives in TN and the thought that their backyards might be further compromised is very disheartening; and I am only there for reunions...they have live there for generations.

Please take care of the mountains; do not harm them anymore!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1081</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft EIS.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bob Shippee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1082| I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. |

| 1083| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, |
|     | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. |
|     | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. |
|     | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
|     | Sincerely, Brett Spengler |

<p>| 1084| Stop selling our children's future. No more land for mining interests! |</p>
<table>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1085 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
| 1086 | North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining.  
I support protection of the Big South Fork, and am in support of Alternative #4, with the critical modification of limiting re-mining!  
Thank you,  
Carla Hervert |
| 1087 |  
Protect the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands from mining.  
North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining.  
I Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Barry Horney |
| 1088 | If a mountain top has to be removed for a company to get at the minerals, then we and they don't need them, it's not worth the long term damage to life and the environment. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Steve Aderhold

We don't need to open more places for mining. The way energy is now being distributed it won't be needed.

Stanley Veyhl

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Gerald M serventi

Making mountains disappear, not a magic trick to be proud of.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Patricia Benward

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Phillip Sorrells
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Martha Brimm

---

I'm interested in seeing scenic, natural wild places protected and preserved for use by the "common man's" enjoyment and recreation rather than being exploited by those folks driven by profit and power to exploit such places for personal use and gain.

Please protect this natural beauty!
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Woessner
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Katherine Dander

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Fredkin
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robyn S Walters

---

Save our natural treasures for our future generations. Keep our beautiful places so that we have a peaceful place to relax and calm to relax our minds and bodies. God gave us these places to enjoy not to destroy.

No Planet B.

Please support this program.

Please consider Alternative 4 when discussing the protection of the headwaters of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and,

Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

It is important that we protect this forest against pollution and industrial destruction.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

John C Angel

Parks were never established to be torn apart by private corporations. Please keep energy companies out of parks.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Susie Stevens
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

William Smith

Cincinnati, Ohio

I support non-mining designation

Keep it in the wild, No mining in this area,

Please do not mine!!!!

If an area is considered unsuitable for surface mining, why would anyone want to mine in that particular area?

At this time (the 21st century) it makes no sense to be mining. Is the mining to be done for energy sources? It is also so very important that we stop polluting our world. Mining is not important where energy is concerned. We have the ability to use water, and the sun to get clean, healthy energy. So, why aren't we utilizing these components?

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

It's a great idea to withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Bill Keeting (wildlife photographer)
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Bruce Higgins

Please choose Alternative #4 to protect Tennessee Mountains from mining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Anlee Palmer
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Pallavi Moorthy

Protect our earth, it is the only home we have; when you have destroyed our planet where do you plan on moving to?

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Bridgett Heinly
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jay Rose

There should be no mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife management area! This area is a haven for wildlife, and mining would change this place forever. Don't let this area be mined, now or ever!

I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations. With the requirement that re-mining of old sites in the protected area be approved only in limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

support the protection.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Sincerely,

P. Schultze

Please do not allow mining and mountain top removal in this pristine wildlife area. We have done extreme damage to the environment in a very short time, 300-350 years, since the industrial holocaust, that took BILLIONS of years to evolve.

The power is yours. Use it wisely. Put a stop to this environmental devastation.

Thank you, Beverly Foster, Wayne, PA
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robin Rysavy

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

B. Elliot Ross
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Vince Hoenigman

We must stop destroying the planet.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.
My husband and I lived in Tennessee for a total of 31 years. We love Tennessee, especially its beautiful, wild side. We've spent many a week and lots of weekends in East Tennessee. We spent ten Christmases in Gatlinburg enjoying the Smokey Mountains and surrounding countryside, so, when I was asked to write on behalf of the horrendous plan for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area I gladly obliged. My god, what an appalling fate for this area of Tennessee. I've seen what surface mining does to the land. It rips out the heart and soul of land that should be left as pristine as it currently is. I've often said that I could never be a land developer because their drive is to develop every last inch of land, regardless of its beauty and riches. There is more to the word riches than what can be developed for profit.

Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits. Besides, my husband and I wish to know that, when we visit this area in Tennessee, it will be as beautiful as we remember it to be. We plan on spending a week in the mountains of Tennessee this summer. We will be royally pissed if we come back to devastation!

I fully support the above alternative and wish to make an additional comment.

I am about to write the story of a young man from Rwanda who not only saved the gorillas of Virunga Mountains from being poached, but through his sensitivity and generosity taught the men who poached the gorilla that they could have an alternative source of income. So he helped them develop a Cultural Village which is visited now by thousands of paying tourists eager to know the culture. The ex-poachers also still hunt the gorillas, but they hunt them for the tourists to see, watch and sit with. It's an amazing story which should become the amazing continued story for the part of Tennessee that is under threat of

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mr. Shelley D. Dahlgren, PhD
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kind Regards,

Caleb Laieski

Please, pretty please, preserve, conserve, take care of our lands. Mining has disastrous effects on the land. Thank you.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Allen

There are so few places left on earth that have not been raped and plundered by man. For God's sake, leave something beautiful alone.

I support alteration 4 BUT I implore you to ensure that you limit re-mining. Thank you!

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining

STOP...OUR RIVERS ARE DYING...WE ARE TOO.

Don't ruin this beautiful land. No mining

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
James J Swindell
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mitchell L. VanEtten

We have to preserve our environment for our children

I'm from the deep South, though I currently live in Napa, California. A native of New Orleans, I spent an entire summer in Memphis with my aunt while my widowed mother did her medical internship. I'll never forget that summer (and seeing Elvis idling next to us in his pink Cadillac convertible).

I am a medical doctor with extensive training in organic chemistry, toxicology, and pesticide residues. I've been an outdoorsman my entire life, and hunt and fish.

I know and love the mountains of Tennessee and have travelled the state extensively, and nearly did my residency training at Vanderbilt. I've also studied surface mining of coal, and especially deplore the devastating practice of surface mining (mountaintop removal).

It destroys the environment and communities it's purported to be helping. It's a proven way to cheaply privatize the profits of mining, but socialize the costs of mining and its toxic aftereffects.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Just look at what has happened in West Virginia. Once the mountains are leveled they are gone forever.

We need to preserve this wilderness area for future generations.

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining. Please reconsider for the future generations and the planet.

we love to visit. nature is our attraction to the state.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We MUST protect the beauty of our earth. Mining will severely impact that beauty in Tennessee. Please don't allow the animals to become extinct as so many other such operations have done.

Stop this now.

Thank you

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

John van Arnold

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Pauline Burak
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jeff Morgan

Please protect the North Cumberland Wildlife lands in Tennessee. They are far more valuable left alone than destroyed for coal, which we don't need to add to climate warming.

Ken Ross

No fracking, drilling, mining in any way, shape or form. We've had ENOUGH of the greed of the oil & gas industries.

Natural resources Must be preserved!

Stop mining on public land

Why is this happening. Coal is out-dated.

Man has torn this planet apart. Think about the next generation; think about homes for the animals. Don't let the US end up like china.

The preservation of this area for generations to come is without question a priority.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael Seager

My representatives protect the Environment.

The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area is important in its natural state for so many reasons. For this reason, I strongly support Alternative 4 because it will be the best protection for the land, wildlife and water quality. These mountains should be forever wild.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

We need to keep the environment healthy for future generations.

Do not allow the beautiful mountains of Tennessee to be destroyed by Mining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Bruce Christopher
Limit re-mining by supporting Alternative 4. Please let's not go backwards by hurting our "fragile" planet. Mother Nature is not happy with our lack of respect. We've been given many chances to right the wrong. If we don't react now, we will be at the point of no return. Please look at it this way. What do we tell our children and their children's children when they aren't given the opportunity to enjoy, protect and preserve these natural wonders that were given to us with the understanding that we will not ruin what we have been blessed with. Find it in your heart to do the right thing. The world is watching so give a good impression and make us proud to be...AMERICANS! Thank you for your consideration and time.

Regards, Edward Souza (National Park volunteer) LNHP

Please do not mine. Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and, Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems. Thank you for your consideration.

Please don't ruin the Tennessee area with yet another mining operation.

I'm against mining any substance, any time, and any place.

It's hard to imagine that this great and beautiful, historic and essentially "natural" area of the country and of your state would be considered for such an act of mutilation.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support ALTERNATIVE 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kitty Dantonio

Mining always messes up the area!

It's all to beautiful to mess up and there's no need to do it but for big dollar profit to the very few.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I believe this modification for Alternative 4 is optimal for the health of the land, water and water quality.

Natural wildlife conservation areas should be off limits to the effects of mining. Our beautiful areas of natural beauty should be saved not destroyed for a few dollars.

Please save these lands. People can always find another way to survive or make money but the environment is at our mercy.

No drilling or mining

Support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.
<table>
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| 1203 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
| 1204 | I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification, no re-mining. □  
Thank you for your time. |
| 1205 | These acres need to remain unspoiled and pristine for wildlife of all kinds. □  
Keep fossil fuels in the ground to prevent unregulated mining. |
| 1206 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
| 1207 | We as a country must protect any and all native lands! Once they are lost we will never create any more! |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Roy A. Jensen, M.D.

Coal is an obsolete fuel source. The land and people of Tennessee would do better to preserve it for future generations and promote tourism there instead.

These corporate raiders must be stopped from destroying the last of our natural habitats to profit from greed.

Dear LUM Petition Officer:

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will also protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism based economy in the future. These mountains can and should remain for eternity.

Sincerely,

Harvey M. Rubenstein, RLA, FASLA

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Please be respectful of the land and be good stewards for future generations. Short term profits should not drive decisions about land use, it has been there for many years and should e there for many more.
It's time to keep all fossil fuels in the ground. Recently, the Paris climate summit highlighted the need to limit temperature increase to no more than 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit. More recently, the Obama administration announced that no new coal leases would occur on public land. Before it's too late, atmospheric carbon must be curtailed. At last count, the atmosphere contained 402 parts per million (ppm) of carbon. The goal is to reduce the count to 350 ppm. Climate scientist James Hansen was the first to testify before Congress, in 1988, about global warming. He maintains that atmospheric carbon above 350 ppm is dangerous. For these reasons, North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Lands are unsuitable for mining and fossil fuel extraction. All lands are unsuitable, if humanity is to transition to renewable energy.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Paul Hopkins

Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

The ridge line is basically unsuitable for mining and Alternative 4 would protect much more, as it would keep mining by-products/waste from polluting many more acres. With the low prices bringing in for mining products....only the most economically suitable areas would be profitable, if at that. This is a golden opportunity to piss-off the least amount of interest.

I am not from the area, but I am not for any new mining at all. If we don't start to really think about saving our lands instead of scraping them clean, there will be no future lands for any of us to enjoy. Water and air are both necessities for all creatures on this earth. The more mining we create, the less trees to clean the air and the more polluted our waters will become. Just say no.

thank you.

Peter Ayres
<table>
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| 1219 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jared Brenner |
| 1220 | Having hiked this area, it's some of the greatest land I've encountered. Mining there would be very detrimental in too many ways to list. With a glut of oil, coal being incredibly dirty and on the way of the buffalo, what would be gained by surface mining these beautiful lands? |
| 1221 | Destruction of more of our dwindling recreation/wild areas is a crime against the citizens of this country. Denying our children and grandchildren these irreplaceable resources is contrary to the spirit of our country. |
| 1222 | Surface mining is destroying quality of life and must not continue. |
| 1223 | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. |
| 1224 | **We shall protect all National Parks!** |
| 1225 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nancy Rasmussen |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Paul Bechtel

I agree with this petition.

Mining is not the future of energy. Solar, Wind, and Geothermal are the future. Stop any and all obsolete mining forever. Do not spoil Big South Fork National River and Recreation area.

This is a bad idea

Hi, please do what is right. God is watching this process.

So-called "surface mining" - let's call it what it is: strip mining, as in "Strip the earth bare for quick bucks at everyone else's expense!" - has already been allowed to damage far too much of our country. It needs to be banned, and permits rejected until the money-grubbers get the message. The undespoiled land is far more valuable to far too many people. Besides the health effects on anyone who has to live near such mines, there is also the negative effect on tourism. Nobody pays to see a strip mine; they pay to see nature at its finest, which benefits them and the many businesses where tourists spend their money (hotels, campgrounds, crafters' markets, restaurants, entertainment, historic reenactments, local merchants... need I go on?) Let's look toward the long term, and a steady flow of money into an area. Even the best mines give out, but new tourists keep on coming!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Jessica

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Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Adam Pastula

---

Please save the wonderful wilderness area.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[Marguerite Benoit]

How much land must get destroyed before we realize the devastating effects on our precious Mother Earth. Keep fighting!

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

candace cootz

Please protect the Cumberland Mountains - and all Tennessee mountains - from coal mining, especially mountain top removal. It should be anathema to all of us that we would allow such extreme destruction.

I support Alternative 4, and ask that you do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Angie Affolter

Let's not do anything more to upset our delicate ecological balance. Let's work to preserve our environment.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

David R. Guinnup, AICP
Guinnup Planning Services

Raping this beautiful land with dynamite and dozers to render up some subsurface minerals is criminal and should not be allowed. This would render it worthless and abolish any hope of clean water and life thereafter for many critters which we do not have the authority or the funds to destroy with any expectation of overcoming the guilt and destruction of our own environment and lifelines.

I am in favor of keeping the Big South Fork National River and Recreation area in Tennessee free from mining and environmental destruction. This is a beautiful area for Tennesseans and all United States citizens.

Recreation is a critical part of the economy in this area.

Please support Alternative 4 with a limitation on re-mining.

Kind regards,

Sara Wood
I want to voice my support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement: that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Therefore, I support Alternative 4 with the one critical modification of limiting re-mining.

surface mining should be illegal everywhere

The mountains of Tennessee are one of the FEW ECOLOGICAL BIOSYSTEMS LEFT!! Keep mining OUT

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Lafleur

It's very simple.

Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

We must preserve the natural beauty of Tennessee which I hope to visit some day.

Please do not deprive me of this primeval opportunity.

No mining on public lands.
I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations. One crucial improvement: Re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where TN and OSMRE agree the benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process.

With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Thank you.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Eileen Chieco, Ph.D.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael Mitchell

Do not do it!

Please remove surface mining from the wildlife management area.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[your name here] wpm

Please protect the Cumberland Wildlife Area. Thank you.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you.

Thanks

We don't need new mining. We need to pursue alternative renewable resources. This land has been designated for the preservation of wildlife not for corporations. Mining would destroy the land as it has everywhere else.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

James Michael "Mike" Henderson

Please do everything that you can to protect ALL Wilderness from the GREEDY corporations that are destroying Our World. Enough is enough, the GREED has destroyed too much land and killed too many people while the rich run with the money.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Correspondence</th>
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</table>
| 1269 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I strongly support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I emphatically support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Very Sincerely,  
Michael F. Ripberger |
| 1270 | It has gotten out of hand. Man has already destroyed too much of our land and environment. We need to preserve what's left. |
| 1271 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Ken Windrum |
| 1272 | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

John P Teevan III

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Harriet McCleary

---

Save this land

In favor of Alternative #4.

Thanks, F.Corr

I support the state of Tennessee's petition to ban ridgeline mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. Please support this petition and preserve as much of God's creation for future generations as possible.

Public lands should stay public. Put people first.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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</table>
| 1279| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □  
Sincerely,  
[your name here]  
Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality. □  
Sincerely, |
| 1280| I support all parks.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1281| Please save our beautiful National Parks for everyone to enjoy. Thank you. Dawn Cadenhead                                                                                                                      |
| 1282| no mining                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1283| protect it, good God the whole world is falling apart.                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1284| Don't allow mountain top mining. Thanks                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1285| Considering the environmental and climatic hazards of the use and extraction in of fossil fuels in general and coal in particular it only makes sense to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □  
Dan Grossberg |
| 1286| Please do not allow surface mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area                                                                                                                                 |
| 1287| I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □  
Leave it alone. |
| 1288| Leave it alone.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
1289 I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

1290 Mining is so 'last century'

1291 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

John Norman

1292 Please do the right thing for people and the environment. Thanks

1293 We need to take care of our wild lands and mountains. They provide us with beautiful scenery and often have trees which reduce CO2 in the air. If they are mined, they erode and spill contaminated rock and soil into the valleys around them. Don't mine the mountains.

1294 It is time to start thinking of this planet and future generations. Who wants to look at a barren landscape, devoid of trees and wildlife and unable to support life? I don't think anyone would prefer this over forests and birds, rivers and wildlife.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. But this cannot be unless they are protected now.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

G.B. Shelburne

Friends,

I have often recreated at Big South Fork NRRA. It is a splendid area for resting, boating, hiking. I've had some very inspiring moments in this area. I agree with the State of Tennessee in their request that all ridgelines in this Wildlife Management Area are unsuitable for mining.

Therefore, I support Alternative 4 with an exception - that re-mining of old sites in the area should only be approved if thought that environmental benefits of mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. So modified, Alternative 4 will continue to provide quality recreational tourism and protect this magnificent area.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I have dual citizenship - US & Canada - and am pleased with the US National Park vision/activity of protecting their parks, which, I might add, offer greater protection than the Canadian government does for its National Parks.

For the Wild.

Dave Manning

Wildlife areas are NOT suitable for mining. Save wildlife!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Leslie Sharlock

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I am writing in support of the State of Tennessee's proposition to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as not appropriate for surface mining. This needs to include covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I absolutely support Alternative 4 with an essential adjustment that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in a very small number of cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This adjusted Alternative 4 provides the best protection for the wildlife, the land and quality of the water. In addition, it will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. Mountains needed to be protected and well taken care of.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Melissa Siebke
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Phillip Hope
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Glenn A. Nappi

We must continue to protect the land from continued mining causing environment destruction!

The national parks are beautiful places where one can escape the hustle and bustle of urbanization and connect with nature. These are pristine locations that deserve protection from those seeking to exploit and urbanize every inch of the planet. I speak for the parks, those who visit them, and those who call these marvelous places home when I say, please protect our national parks! We cannot replace these priceless places if we lose them, so let’s protect them!

Don’t mine the Cumberland! It is used by many for relaxation and recreation. It also is a wildlife-rich ecosystem that will be disrupted and destroyed by mining. The tailings and waste will end up in the streams and kill them, too.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

As a devotee of our incomparable National Parks, I am so grateful that we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area!

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Laura Tennen

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Respectfully,

Nancy Gowani

We need more national parks, and less wasteful mining.

We don't need mining in areas that have wildlife management! We have so little of natural wildlife that we need PROTECTION. Is mining so necessary for America that we have to do mining and destroy our natural surroundings. NO!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1313</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, ¶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>²I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. ¶</td>
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<td></td>
<td>²Sincerely, ¶</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weldon Barker</td>
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<td>1314</td>
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<td></td>
<td>²Sincerely, ¶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marilyn Hosea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1315</td>
<td>My family is originally from Pennsylvania. The surface mines and slag heaps took decades to have enough vegetation to hide the horrible scars across the landscape. Don’t let that happen in Tennessee.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as UNSUITABLE for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I VERY strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Schmitz

Take a lesson from the poisonous Flint River; don't allow short term profits to deny future generations the healthy enjoyment of a natural (not man made) resource.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Brittany Peters

I support Alternative 4 with limited re-mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Andrea Pellicani

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

I fear that mining has done irrevocable damage to the environment throughout America and all over the world. We must do everything we can to protect land and vulnerable animals from the ravages of mining.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Even if Obama favors the wealthy and the powerful over the workers and miners that suffer the injuries and deaths, or in his and Bush's wars and terrifying drones: you the officials in positions of authority and action might consider your legacies. Don't be a rubber stamp and don't let applicants despoiling the lands and rivers. The Flint River didn't get the way it is except by neglect and failure to get poluters to clean up before they left the table with their profits.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

For the sake of sustainable health and environmental practices:

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Martha Atkinson

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

My family and I enjoyed the scenic beauty of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area when we lived in Virginia. We have seen the devastation strip mining brings to the ecology surrounding the mines and find the idea of this gorgeous area being subjected to such ruination horrifying! I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 seems to provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Sincerely,

Loula L. Gregg, LMSW, MM
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jo Ellen Young

It is critically important that we preserve our environment for our future generations.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Cheryle Steele
Dear Maggie,

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area!

We can do this by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

But we need your help to make this happen.

This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is accepting public comments on alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this petition, and your comments are needed by Monday, January 25th.

Stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Shawn Blaesing Thompson

Alternative 4!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Barbara Becker

Protect our lands not destroy and Harvest them.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Stephen Gliva

You must not allow the greed of mining destroy the environment. The damage is next to irreplaceable and when accidents occur the taxpayers are expected to foot the bill to clean up the mess.

Please keep strip mining out of the watershed of the north Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, so that visitors from all over the state and our out-of-state guests can continue to enjoy this wildlife area.

Thank You,

Michael Smathers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1337| **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Karine Gordineer

---

| 1338 | Please consider what mining has done to your neighbors to the north, Kentucky and West Virginia. They have leveled the mountains, caused irreparable damage to the people who live below their sites. Once gone, never to be regained.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1339 | **no mining**                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1340 | I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement— that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. |
| 1341 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

James Graham

---

<p>| 1342 | Here we go again. Moving in on wildlife territory all for greed. This land should not only never be used for mining but should have government protection.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1343 | <strong>Environment comes first.</strong>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1344</td>
<td>Please protect the Big South Fork.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I am in support of the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, that is covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I urge you to support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please consider the above comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E. Shimasaki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1345</td>
<td>WHY DESTROY MORE WILD LIFE LAND FOR AN INDUSTRY THAT BRINGS LOW PAYING JOBS AND HIGH HEALTH CARE COST.???</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1346</td>
<td>I have a right to know what I’m eating, label our food. Simple enough, get it done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1347</td>
<td>Global warming means stop mining coal. Not only that stop making a trash heap out of nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1348</td>
<td>National parks are our heritage that we are leaving for the next generations to enjoy and understand nature. It is imperative that they are not spoiled and left to their natural state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1349</td>
<td>National parks are our heritage that we are leaving for the next generations to enjoy and understand nature. It is imperative that they are not spoiled and left to their natural state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1350</td>
<td>support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1351</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travis King</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

My husband and I have hiked in the Big South Fork NRRA and it was strikingly beautiful. I would hate to see that change.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Schlemmer

To Whom It May Concern,

Please protect the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Lands. We need these untouched spaces for generations and for all to enjoy.

We have enough space, so please without reservations consider this land for protection and preservation.

Thank you,
Louise

Please choose Alternative 4 as it provides the highest level of protection for the head-waters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Thank you.

This area should be protected, not exploited.

Please support Alternative 4 for the Big South Fork. We need to keep as much of our beautiful country Beautiful.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Remember Ducktown!
ID | Correspondence
---|---
1358 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Melitta von Abele

1359 | People need recreation
1360 | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Ben Teaford
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

James Todd

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Crystal Wilson
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Janet Robinson

---

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With that improvement, Alternative 4 will provide the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Thank you for reading my message and considering my views.

Luis Alberto Caballero

---

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Luis Alberto Caballero
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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| 1367 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

Sincerely,  
ferah withrow |
| 1368 | message/comments:  
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

Sincerely,  
Hedda Matheson |
<p>| 1369 | Stop the mining! |
| 1370 | Stop the mining! |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1371</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,                                                                                                                                  I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Peter S. Sonne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1372</td>
<td>I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- -that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1373</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,                                                                                                                                  I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1374</td>
<td>Please Don't Mine Pristine Land! When It's Gone, It's Gone Forever! Thank You!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1375</td>
<td>While i do not reside in Tennessee, I feel it is very important to conserve our remaining wild heritage areas. Many areas of our country are available for resource extraction, and in order for us to preserve remaining habitats we must decide to make some areas off limits to development. Thank You.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1376</td>
<td>I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1377</td>
<td>NO mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area !! These lands in Tennessee need protection. Biological diversity MUST be protected if humanity intends to have a future on this planet !! NO MINING PLEASE !!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>-----</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1378</td>
<td>Please recognize the mining draft petition evaluation document &amp; environmental impact statement.....This is not suitable land for mining, especially surface mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1379</td>
<td>No mining on public lands. They belong to all of us, not just corporations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1380</td>
<td>Do the right thing!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1381</td>
<td>ALL AMERICANS NEED TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1382</td>
<td>Living in upstate N.Y., I can tell you our natural wilderness areas, lakes &amp; mountains have never been more alive. Mountain biking, trailed horseback rides, kayaking, skiing, etc. are all popular things to do here &amp; it's because the lack of intrusiveness from such things as mining operations, drilling rigs (fracking is banned in this state) &amp; other such damaging and destructive practices. I urge you to consider this, as an alternative to destroying the environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1383</td>
<td>Protect our forests and mountains. Stop destroying them by mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1384</td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for your efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1385</td>
<td>We are writing to tell the Office of Surface Mining that we support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>We strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
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<td>This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linda and Lewis Paleias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ft. Lauderdale, FL  33308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1386</td>
<td>The area should be protected so that our grandchildren and great grandchildren can enjoy the beauty of wild nature. We need to preserver something for our children's future. thank you for allowing me to comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1387</td>
<td>please, no mining!!!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1388</td>
<td>Mountains are more important than mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1389</td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. It is irreproachable that mining could even be considered in an area this beautiful!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[Your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,
Nora Polk
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. This would cover all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Paula Grande

Totally unsuitable, we have too many mines already

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Donna Kendall

I am strongly in favor of protecting the wildlife and natural landscape of Tennessee by designating The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as Unsuitable For Mining. Mining decimates the environment, and supports the interests of rich corporations instead of the people at large. Please preserve this land for the sake of the land, creatures, and people who treasure it!

Wind and solar energy are the wave of the future. Leave fossil fuels in the ground. Please. I have grandchildren.

Do NOT allow mining in this glorious area! Please protect it!!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael Gan

Do not destroy the Nature anymore!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jenifer Horne
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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</table>
| 1402 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kindly,

Kelly Byrnes

| 1403 | Stop the mining and protect our natural heritage! It matters, and we need such places now more than ever.                                                                 |
| 1404 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Aaron Robinson

| 1405 | I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement--that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits. |
I support Alternative 4 which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement--that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Please help keep America's country wild for our grandchildren and the animals that live in them. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. Thank you for your time.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Gavin Bornholtz

Stop the destruction

FOR THE NATURAL MAJESTY OF OUR NATION.....AND FOR THE DIGNITY OF OUR PEOPLE.....THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND MUST BE PRESERVED......AND PROTECTED FOR O-U-R FUTURE.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
David Fouche
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Donald Walsh
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,
[Dr Jill Berkowitz-Berliner]

Too much country has been lost to mountain top mining. I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

Please implement Alternative 4. I believe it would offer the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Sincerely,
[Dan Sherwood]
<table>
<thead>
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</table>
| 1421 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Martha Spencer |
| 1422 | I wish to urge you to take alternative 4, to protect as much land as possible for as long as possible. We currently enjoy visiting the area, and I wish to preserve it so that our descendants can also enjoy visiting the area many years from now. |
| 1423 | Because of the terrain this land is not suitable for mining. The tailings that mining leave are a hazard to all. Please oppose this idea. |
| 1424 | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely, |
| 1425 | As a former resident of eastern Kentucky with friends and family all over the area of southern Appalachia, including North Cumberland WMA, I cringe and cry at the thought of allowing surface mining in this area. Recognize that the common name for surface mining is Strip Mining. That is precisely what happens. Strip Mining strips the contours of mountains and hills and completely destroys them. In many places in Kentucky I have driven down the road and looked ahead to see a forested hillside interrupted by a flattened grassy area where a strip mine has destroyed a mountain and then "reclaimed" the area by planting grass. It is extremely ugly, and it would be tragic to allow this to happen to North Cumberland WMA, especially in a day when climate change requires that we convert to clean energy.  
Rather than dismantle beautiful mountains and destroy wildlife habitat, spend the money to retrain out-of-work miners (including some people I love) to work on clean energy projects that leave a lovely vital area intact. Please do not allow this destruction to happen. |
| 1426 | We should not allow mining in our national parks. Isn't this why they are in a park to be protected. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mija Gentes

All Federal & State Parks are part of our National Heritage. They should stay wild & pristine! No type of corporate commercialism should ever be permitted. No mining, no drilling, no nothing but visitors that are there to appreciate the beauty of Mother Earth!

If the government allows this, another pristine area, that is vital to the survival of many species, will perish in one way or another. Do NOT do this! Generations deserve to see this and many other natural areas within our country. Corporations looks only towards the immediate monetary payout and forget where and what this rare area is truly worth. This and other parts of the natural America need to be protected and allowed to survive for millenia to come.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining including all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1431</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
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<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teresa Lyman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1432</td>
<td>Save the lands for our wildlife and children!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1433</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kim Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1434</td>
<td>Leave it alone, destroying it would have an incredibly detrimental contribution to climate change and human health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

My family and I very much support careful conservation of our American wildlife and wild places for generations to come.

We are writing to state our support of the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

In addition, we strongly support Alternative 4 with an essential modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

We believe that this modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality.

In addition, it will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains should be carefully protected so that they last forever.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns for North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. And for allowing us to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, The Stewart Family

I professionally oppose any mining activity in wildlife management areas. That's not wildlife management.

LEAVE NORTH CUMBERLAND WILDLIFE AREA ALONE...NO MORE BIG MINING IN THIS COUNTRY, LET ALONE IN OUR PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS. WHAT PART OF "NO" DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND...?? NO TO MINING, NO TO BIG BUSINESS, YES TO THE PEOPLE...PROTECT"OUR" AREAS...!!! DO YOUR JOB...!!!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Ian Hannon
If we are to survive as residents of this planet, we need to move to a new paradigm for our economic future. Coal and the oil industries are fast becoming the dinosaurs of the extractive industries, which is ironic, since they are built on things that died millions of years ago.

Service and tourism are on the rise, sustainable and have a nearly zero impact on our air and water supplies.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

Support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dr. V Evan
Chicago, IL

---

Now more than ever before, we need to protect our remaining forests and wild places. Our lives depend on them, not just the animals who call it home (and they're disappearing at an alarming rate!).

No more coal mines. They are not needed. Use the money to develop alternative power for more jobs and cleaner air.
Attention:  LUM Petition Administrative Office

I support Alternative 4 with modifications: allowing reopening of old mines only if it is safe and environmentally beneficial. That is a high standard.

I incorporate here in all the standard comments of the National Park Service.

I was born in Tennessee. I am in the unusual position of agreeing with the State of Tennessee in its efforts to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Areas unsuitable for surface mining particularly in all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

In the eastern United States, we have fewer and fewer wild and beautiful areas. Historic areas. Just the name "Cumberland" evokes a time of adventure and hope and steadfastness and struggle. A time when Tennessee was the west.

In the autumn I took a trip from Florida to Ohio. I was gone about a week. When I got back all I talked about was that wild bear I saw. In the heavily forested mountains. In Tennessee.

If you allow strip mining, no bear, no trees, no mountains.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Drena LaPointe

PLEASE PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT!!!

It's your world, too!!!
<table>
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| 1449 | [Click Here to Help Protect the Big South Fork!](http://my.npca.org/site/R?i=dQJ8y1-_YqsJgwI3uWHqDA)  
(This link will lead you to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's web form.)  
[http://my.npca.org/site/R?i=Y09KtZaZHgQMw2EcPstZpw](http://my.npca.org/site/R?i=Y09KtZaZHgQMw2EcPstZpw)  
Dear Ann,  
We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area!  
We can do this by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.  
But we need your help to make this happen.  
This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is accepting public comments on alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this petition, and your comments are needed by Monday, January 25th.  
Stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.  
Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike Mountaintop removal mining: unprecedented environmental obscenity. (And unnecessary.)  
Sustainability = survival.  
We need to respect and cherish the land that was given to us, and not ruin even more of it than we already have doen! |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Amy Whitworth

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robin Patten
1454 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Bryna Chang

1455 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a change that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. This can be the salvation of these people for surviving without mining. These mountains should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

1456 I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I back up Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife and water quality. It'll protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains should be forever!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Rebecca

Anne Young
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1460</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I hope you will agree that this area needs protection and preservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1461</td>
<td><strong>Coal mining in this area can only mean more increase in climate change. It also means continuing the horrible health effects of coal mining.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1462</td>
<td><strong>We need the wild!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1463</td>
<td><strong>North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1464</td>
<td><strong>Managing our resources must be balanced with protection of our wildlife.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1465</td>
<td><strong>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</strong> I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sincerely, carolyn massey</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1466</td>
<td><strong>Enough with the fossil fuels. We have to save the planet!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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| 1467 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

Sincerely,  

Carol Ramo |
| 1468 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

Sincerely,  

[Your name here] |

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality. |
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Ruth M. Mendes

Mining fossil fuels is the wrong way to go.

We are at or perhaps past the point of no return on climate change, and for what? profits.

Money needs to be invested in renewable energy which actually costs less than filthy fossil fuels now.

There is no reason for you to allow more mining unless you are complicit in the evil.

Thank you.

Don't let them do this.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Cindy Fine
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David Sanders</td>
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<td>1474</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1475</td>
<td>Keep the coal in the ground and protect this beautiful area!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as not suitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Richard Pasichnyk

Please protect the Headwaters of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands as they are Unsuitable for Mining Thanks!

Leave the natural and quit raping the land for your filthy profit.

Protect the Big South Fork.

We must protect our lands for future generations to enjoy them as we do now!

This type of mining is not sustainable anymore.
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1484</td>
<td>Surface mining will pollute the headwaters and everything downstream. I urge you to protect these lands to perpetuate a healthy environment for wildlife, forests and people who frequent the area for recreation and relaxation. Short term profit should not be a priority. The experience of mountain top removal and mining ventures should teach us that our earth should be protected for the good of all not for a greedy few.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1485</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Michelle Sewald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1486</td>
<td>Coal destroys our environment, alternatives need to be considered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1487</td>
<td>Protect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1488</td>
<td>it is in wildness that we find internal peace</td>
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Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Stacy Grossman
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. I recently learned one of my professors worked to reintroduce black bears in this area. Since this project black bear populations are on the rise in the Big South Fork Park! Allowing mining in this area may destroy a successful conservation project and degrade the habitat for many other organisms. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Barbara Stone
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Leo Lieber

Humanity needs to leave as the earth alone. We must stop destroying the parts we have not already trashed. We live in an eco SYSTEM. Like cancer, disruption leads to death. We have already put our world at risk, profits are not a good enough reason to destroy more.

I am writing in support of Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridge-line as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert Hicks

Dear Sir / Madame

I support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Please act to protect this wonderful resource, for us, and our children

We don't want to eat Frankenfish. We have the right to know.

I'm concerned for about coal mining everywhere. Burning coal is the biggest source of Mercury in our atmosphere. The coal burned in the atmospheric hell known as China ends up in my trout streams and in my Tuna.

They are still on line to beat us in clean energies.

The Government is destroying our environment and shipping manufacturing overseas for the cheap slave labor their corporate donors love... Slaves, really Christian, another Corporate value.

I live near the west coast north of the Columbia River. I really don't want anyone's coal or other dirty energy being transported through my beautiful America.

There are so, so many reasons to abandon dirty energy. All those reasons align with Corporate donations to our "Representatives".

Is No one above this slow destruction of our Great Land?

Extractive industry operations are wholly incompatible with responsible management of wildlife habitats.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sandra Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1506</td>
<td>Please don't destroy our environment. We can't fix it once torn apart. Our children's children should be able to enjoy the beauty of our great national treasures!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1507</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<td>1508</td>
<td>There is no need to defile this area with strip/montaintop removal mining. Put bluntly, there is no market for coal, which, I assume, is the sought-after mineral in this case (I am a retired fossil station engineer); and the two uses - - this is a wildlife management area, for God's sake! - - are mutually exclusive, and no surface mining should ever be allowed here, no matter what the objective, even with a rebound in coal's favorability. Should that occur, there are plenty of destroyed sites already.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>However, I would support Alternative 4, with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1509</td>
<td>I agree these wildlife wild lands should be protected from the damage to the habitat and water supply that would be ruined through mining. Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. It is the way to the future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1510</td>
<td>I prefer Bernie but will switch to Hillary if I think that he cannot defeat the republican candidate.</td>
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<td>ID</td>
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<td>1511</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>I have spent time in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and strongly support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely, Dr. Dorine Kramer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1512</td>
<td>Wildlife management areas are for the protection of land, water, plants, and animals. Whether a person chooses to go to one or not it is still significant for their well being. Healthy cities, suburbs, and farmland are dependent upon us protecting as much of our natural areas as possible from development and use, such as mining and logging.</td>
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<td>1513</td>
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<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely, Judy Mazowiecki</td>
</tr>
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Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Larry E McDaniel

Please make every effort to protect the Big south fork National River & Recreation Area from surface mining and other practices that may harm this area, and the water drainage that is impacted.

Please designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Area as Lands Unsuitable for Mining.

Thank you.

Please preserve this beautiful area for the future.

I support NO MINING in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management !!!

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Gene Steiker
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

The Cumberland Wildlife Management Area appears to be a beautiful area. My husband & I are planning our retirement in the next few years. I hope this area is still as beautiful when we are free to travel and visit the area.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Cherie Swaters
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Pat Hanbury

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

John Lockhart

SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 4 WHICH PROTECTS THESE GREAT LANDS FROM MINING.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Daphne Endress

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

McKenna Eckerline
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Tennessee is a beautiful state. Please keep this area natural.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Celia O'Kelley

The ridges of North Cumberland must be off limits for any mining activities. This is a Wildlife Management Area, and ridges are unique, with different vegetation, critical habitat for different wildlife species. These are public lands and deserve more public protection. Leave the coal in the ground! Please!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

KAYE AURIGEMMA

As an environmentally concerned citizen, I urge the OSMRE to adopt the proposal known as "Alternative 4". Thank you.

Protecting our air, land and water resources has to be a high priority. Preserving the web of life is essential to the well being of all of us. Fracking endangers all of that which is why we must not allow it. Why invite water to catch fire? Why tempt earthquakes? Why contaminate our drinking supply? To do these things is folly of the worst kind. Please abandon your plans to commit these violations of nature.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Surface mining, in particular ridge and mountain top mining, leaves behind extensive waste and environmental destruction, including surface and ground water pollution, which cannot be effectively mitigated.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael C Davie

Please accept my comments on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I applaud and support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I support Alternative 4, but ask that you modify it to state that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

The modified Alternative 4 really is the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It's difficult to sustain a healthy environment for both people and the wildlife if their home is constantly being destroyed by the mining industry whether it be surface mining or re-mining. This modified Alternative will help the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future.

The mountains need to be protected from further damage. They are life giving if given the opportunity to flourish instead of being constantly degraded by the mining industry.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Keith Augusto

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, John Gambriel
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Laura Tryon

If we have any hope of keeping our planet viable coal must stay in the ground. It is just that simple.
I spoke at the Clinton presentation and request for comments on January 13, 2016. In summary, my primary comments were:

- Approve Alternative 4 (instead of the recommended Alternative 3) because ridge lines are ridge lines, regardless of the date they are identified or the identification methods used;
- Include a requirement in all permits issued for re-mining that existing roads to existing high walls can be maintained, but no new roads are permitted.

After the presentation and hearing comments at the 1/13 meeting, I reevaluated the proposed re-mining strategy and I request that you consider the following additional permit requirements regarding Noise Pollution, Reclamation, and Compensation.

- NOISE POLLUTION: Because the state's petition area and nearby areas are widely used for recreation, and wildlife can also be adversely impacted, Noise Pollution should be minimized by developing and enforcing appropriate permit requirements. Some examples are provided below.
  - BLASTING: Within a "Soundshed" (defined below), blasting should be limited to once per day. (I believe that once a day is appropriate because, as a recreational user in the area, I would be surprised by a single blast, but I would be offended, and may avoid recreational use of the area with more frequent blasting.) A "soundshed" for blasting would be determined by evaluating where the noise resulting from blasting decreases to a negligible decibel level (designated by the State). For example, if the noise level is acceptable at a distance of 5 miles in all directions (the "Soundshed"), then the nearest blast allowed on the same day should 10 miles away. The actual size of the soundshed would depend on the size of the blast, topography, presence of vegetation, and other factors. Available research may support predicting the distance sound travels. Monitoring of noise levels at various distances and in various directions during the first few blasts should be implemented to confirm the size of the soundshed. Areas not typically visited by recreational users could be used to increase the area of the soundshed in certain directions.
  - CONSTRUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION: The noise from heavy equipment used to drill, excavate, load, and transport coal is continuous, and therefore much more objectionable to recreational
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

There are few areas which are more green, peaceful, animal-full and rolling than this space of the North Cumberland. I have hoped to retire in the region within the next two and a half years, but the attack on the area which is so lovely, concerns me.

First, there is no reason to take out the lands from this area as the cost of mining is not fruitful at this time as oil and gas are plentiful and will become more so. Next, the purity of the region is paramount and brings tourists to the area in droves to see the wildlife and hike which would be disrupted not to mention the purity of surrounding streams, rivers and lakes that this area would succumb to if mining were allowed. Finally, the cost of mining could be better spent on establishing wind farms in the area and could far exceed the profit of mining which is a very limited operation that causes dirt, disruption and pollution not to mention destruction of the landscape and views in such a beautiful area.

I thank you for considering my opposition.

Pam

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael Sheriff

Please protect our National Parks! Please!

ForThe Love of God I'm Begging You: Do NOT Mine in the Pristine Fragile Ecosystem of the North Cumberland Management Area in Tennessee!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I am writing to express support for the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; this request covers all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality in the area. It will also protect people in the area by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I hope you will select the modified Alternative 4 discussed above.

Sincerely,

Melissa Haertel
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Russell Weisz
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

We support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

We strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Pat and Gary Gover

Please do not allow surface mining in the north cumberland wildlife management area. Please protect this beautiful area.

Clean water for communities are at stake as well as tourism money, there are too many disasters that ruin communities with impure water and contamination of farming and ranching as well as wildlife.

The time for Mountain Top Removal has come and gone. The people of this Country have NEVER benefited from this practice. The negative effects are known and are long lasting. There is no excuse or reason for this defiling practice other than corporations sacred "Bottom-line" and greed! Our own forests have been devastated from corporate greed!

Stop this practice NOW PLEASE!

It's vital that the environment be protected and this measure is one way to ensure that it is.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Karl Koessel

Wake up do away with coal.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

Duane Gustafson

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

Do what is right, and best for the environment.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Most sincerely,

Debbie Brozak
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Ben Dotson

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Alternative 4 is the best choice, with the provision that re-mining old sites shall be permitted only after environmental review of plan.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1575</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1576</td>
<td>We have a chance to do something truly good. This area should be declared unsuitable for mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1577</td>
<td>Don't mine in the wildlife preserves!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1578</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be natural forever and not subjected to the degradation that surface mining would bring to them. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1579</td>
<td>I urge you to designate all ridgelines in the N. Cumberland Wildlife Management Area off limits for surface mining. Support Alternative Plan 4. A watershed approach is the only way to protect streams from mining pollutants and to assure visitors like that the N. Cumberlands are worth visiting once again. Besides my interest in the area as a vacationer, all the life forms in the area will be free of often deadly pollutants that would result from surface mining, an issue visiting us here in Wisconsin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1580</td>
<td>We need to protect our planet! We keep destroying everything we touch! This desperately needs to stop!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1581</td>
<td>preserve our land for future generations to enjoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1582</td>
<td>Leave this land as nature has made it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1583</td>
<td>Mining is totally incompatible w/ wildlife and their habitat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1584</td>
<td>lets not destroy our wild natural lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1585</td>
<td>I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE 4, BUT NO RE-MINING. THANK YOU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1586</td>
<td>I believe that there are no lands suitable for mining: Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and, Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems. Do not let these lands be destroyed for profit. They are too precious. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1587</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Scott Stieglitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1588</td>
<td>Please choose Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Thank you for listening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1590</td>
<td>This area should be designated as unsuitable for surface mining.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Eric Carlson

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I support Alternative 4

Please do the right thing and protect our mountains.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Amanda Dewey

I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as not suitable for surface mining.

Support renewables. The days of mining are over for the good of the planet.

Please protect this land from mining and pollution.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</table>
| 1601| I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement— that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. □

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits. |

| 1602| Preserve wild places for future generations!                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1603| I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement— that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. □

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits. |

| 1604| Please do NOT ruin the mountains; NO mining. □
Thank you.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1605| Please support for Alternative 4, designating 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with 1 crucial improvement: re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of TN & OSMRE agree the safety &/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. □

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in TN. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million/year, supporting 1,420 jobs & > $16 million in state & local tax benefits. □

Now is the time to act on this & to do the right thing for this area |

| 1606| Please don't mine this area.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1607| I support Alternative 4 because it designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement— that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. □

With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. □

This is a beautiful area, one which I hope Tennessee will treasure as I do. |

| 1608| Please help protect the environment!                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1609| Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs. Damage from Coal Mining cannot be mitigated in Tennessee's fragile environment Ten. Do not allow coal mining to destroy Tennessee. □

Surface coal mining operations will affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Anthony L. Mehle

Mining the North Cumberland lands is not appropriate for the terrain and for the wildlife that inhabits the area.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Corby
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mary Joldersma

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

Do not ruin this beautiful area for coal mining. The natural beauty is a sight to see, so please keep it this way. No dirty coal mining. We love to camp and see the wonders of nature in Big South Fork. I can not believe you would let coal mining come in and destroy this beautiful place, ENOUGH ALREADY!!!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Howard J Cohen, Ph.D.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mary Frischkorn
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Scott Pons

I believe in wild places and wilderness staying as next to nature as possible.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Rethink mining, Money is not everything. Life on this Planet is it for us.

sincerely

Dr. K J Werner
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Donna S. Rice

PLEASE, no mining in the north cumberland management area!!!

Please keep the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area for wildlife. Not mining.

As a member of NPCA and a contributor to Audubon Society, I am deeply concerned about the proposed mining projects in the vicinity of the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement). I want to add my voice to say these areas are unsuitable for mining. This fragile and picturesque landscape needs to be preserved for future generations of naturalists, birders, and residents in the local communities nearby to enjoy. The value of preservation far exceeds the value of mining and destroying the environment forever.

I stand with NPCA in supporting Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Thank you for considering next generations in both the foreseeable and distant future, as you make you decision regarding the use of this land. A good decision today will benefit the whole state, country and planet tomorrow. This region has some of the most beautiful accessible ridge lines in the whole country. They should be preserved for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,
Kristan B. Knapp
Hiker, backpacker in The Great Smokey Mountains National Park

I support Alternative 4

Rebecca Ruffino

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Jessica Justice
Click Here to Help Protect the Big South Fork! (This link will lead you to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's web form.)

Take Action

Dear Vickie,

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area!

We can do this by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

But we need your help to make this happen.

This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is accepting public comments on alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this petition, and your comments are needed by Monday, January 25th.

Stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike

Please approve Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Please .. NO drilling, mining etc on Park lands.

Please .. NO drilling, mining etc on Park lands.
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I support the petition as described below.

Robert P. Gaddy, COLONEL, USAF (retired)
Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition
View of the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining petition area.
View of the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining petition area.

As the SMCRA regulatory authority in Tennessee, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is evaluating a petition to designate more than 67,000 acres as unsuitable for surface coal mining. The bureau began work on the petition in 2010 after the State of Tennessee petitioned OSMRE to designate certain ridge lines and connecting corridors within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement under the discretionary provisions of Section 522 of SMCRA. The petition seeks to prevent surface mining within 600 feet on either side of ridge lines within the 269 square miles of the two areas.

The following assertions serve as the basis for the State's petition:

Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and,

Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

In July 2014, OSMRE secured contractor services to prepare and publish the Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement (PED/EIS) document.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Judy Boutiette

This wonderful landscape should be preserved for future generations.

It is long overdue, stop destroying our mountains for a fuel that should have been banned ages ago. If we are to have a livable planet, then we must end the use of coal and other fossil fuels. We must move to “green” energy. Please end the destruction.

Please preserve the beauty of the magic place! Spent a week there this past summer and would hate to see this magnificent landscape turn into the dead lunar landscapes of large swaths of Kentucky and West Virginia. Thank you!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Chris Norbury

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

There is no such thing as clean coal. There is always an environmental cost. If we do not preserve our heritage, it will be lost to future generations.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sandra Joos

---

I strongly disagree with mining the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area in Tennessee. Mining does irreversible damage to our beautiful forests and it should not be done in a wildlife management area. Too many times we let the mining companies win out only to produce a dangerous product during a dangerous operation. It’s time to stop all mining on federal lands.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Erline Tait

"All things are connected. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves." - Chief Seattle

Please act with foresight and wisdom in this matter!

There is so little left. Please protect this area--for our children, if nothing else.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Matt Hengesbaugh

Please do not mine this area!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (all ridgelines extending to an connecting with stream corridors) as unsuitable for surface mining.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Van Knox

Please do not allow this beautiful area or any of the national parks be destroyed by surface mining. We need to keep our parks and wild areas pristine for the animals, and with trees to produce oxygen for all living beings to maintain life, and clean waters. Anything harming these areas in our country is harming all life forms. 'Man' was put on earth to protect it, not destroy it.

Thank you.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Edward R Schneider

Why destroy more wildlife habitat? Haven't we done enough of that already? Once its destroyed by mining, its gone -a wasteland. What are we leaving our children and grandchildren then?

Absolutely no mining should be allowed.

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

This beautiful region should never be used for any type of mining. I have spent many years enjoying this area. We need to keep it natural for generations to come.

Don't destroy North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area in Tennessee. These lands are unsuitable for mining.

we need all the green we can get to pollute less and to create a future for our children.
Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

I support the State of Tennessee’s petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Don Jusko 1057 Makawao Ave, Maui, HI, 96768

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Lisa Krausz

Don't ruin this beautiful wildlife area for profits... Our children deserve clean water, and wide open spaces to enjoy for years to come...

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

Our planet matters! Whatever affects one part of the world, affects another!

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

I think mining this area would be wrong.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Patricia Winne
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Chris Pentis

Please stop people from destroying protected public land. The land is the heart of the nation and needs to be protected.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. In particular I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification, and that is to limit mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Joanna Behrens

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Cathy Sleva
Dear Sir / Madam,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

James Richardson

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

I stand with NPCA for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. I support Amendment 4. Protect our planet, it's the only one we have.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Lucretia Jevne

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Dear Office of Surface Mining,

Please choose Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations. And please make one crucial amendment: re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. Thus improved, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation constitutes a crucial part of the economic future of Tennessee's rural counties. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Erica Johanson
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sue Maddox

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Ball

For the health of all the people in the area, for our ecosystems, for the wildlife and future generation please preserve the mountains from mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Terry Maddox

Preserve pristine Big South Fork by adopting option 4 to limit upstream mining. The economic benefits of tourism are sustainable and exceed those of destructive strip mining.

Our national parks are for everyone to enjoy; not just a select few who want to harm these beautiful and natural resources. We need to preserve them for all future generations.

Angel Falls Overlook, Big South Fork

Click Here to Help Protect the Big South Fork! (This link will lead you to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamaiton and Enforcement's web form.)

Take Action.

Dear Ellen,

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area!

We can do this by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

But we need your help to make this happen.

This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is accepting public comments on alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this petition, and your comments are needed by Monday, January 25th.

Stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement— that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Ricki Newman

I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.
Dear Sherry,

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area!

We can do this by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

But we need your help to make this happen.

This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is accepting public comments on alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this petition, and your comments are needed by Monday, January 25th.

Stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[Your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

Lu Sadowski

Please keep our wilderness safe! We need our wild places for many, many reasons. The potential damage that can be caused by mining must be closely regulated, and our wild places kept safe. Even "minor" spills or contamination can contaminate ground water and soil for years to come. Please hold fast to keeping our wild places wild.

Thanks for your time.

Susan Soence DVM
Minnesota

Please preserve the beauty and purity of this recreational tourism area in its natural state. Do not allow surface mining here. Thank you.

His modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

We need to preserve our environments for future generations, not for short-term private gain.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Paul J. Feldman

Extraction leads to devastation of environments. It's got to stop before we can no longer correct the damage.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Carol Masuda

We need to leave it in the ground!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hughes
To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to voice my concern with opening up ridgetops for surface mining. As I am sure you are aware, there are numerous and significant environmental issues that can result from mining (especially surface mining). I think what is happening in Flint, MI is a great example of why we need to defend against all potential contaminants to our water supply. Furthermore, the very areas being discussed in this proposal happen to be important habitat for a number of declining wildlife species (most importantly the Cerulean Warbler). These are things that once in peril require significant amounts of money to restore (see Whooping Crane). Additionally, as tourism is a large portion of Tennessee’s economy, I am concerned that the visual impact of such activity may result in reduced visitors to the state and thus offset any economic impact that may occur by allowing the mining. It is surprising to me that in today’s political environment this is even being discussed. What happens if this is approved and in the middle the project further federal regulations occur that vacate the ability? What then? We have a number of abandoned projects that become a lose-lose for everyone. Perhaps we should see the writing on the wall and instead protect what makes our state great by refusing to open up these lands for mining.

Sincerely,

Richard Blanton

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sumana Raychaudhuri

I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. Please protect our wild and scenic places, while they are still here.

I am all for Alternative Four. It is the WAY TO GO!
1717 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

James Columbia

1718 Please leave the Cumberland plateau or South Fork alone. It harbors some of the last protected areas and species in the Allegheny mountains. They deserve our protection. Why do we destroy this area for dirty fuels?

1719 I am writing in opposition to surface mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area in Tennessee. I urge you to support the draft environmental impact statement of the State of Tennessee in opposition to the proposed surface mining in that area. Thank you for your consideration.

1720 We have enough damage to our state from poor mining practices as it stands. Do not approve any more.

1721 I love Big South Fork Park. I have been there 1000 times and I will always return back there.

1722 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Joan Hobbs
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Penelope S Mazza

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

We camp in TN and certainly value its recreational richness over short-term mining benefits.

NO UNSUITABLE MINING!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I strongly support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. Mining these areas would ruin this beautiful area, and would not even be cost effective.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Sondra Huber

Beautiful land is priceless! And irreplaceable. Don't you wish they would say that about you?!!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Bianca Molgora

Please follow the science guidelines in deciding which areas are best for surface mining. It is better to be safe rather than sorry. Protect the headwaters.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Wendy Burgess
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Brown

1733  Must protect

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jo Carson

1735  Please do not allow fracking.

Please protect the North Cumberland wildlife area from the effects of mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Ronda Reynolds

The Big South Fork is a natural area and should be kept as a natural area! It should not be mined!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

S. Van Zant

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining. WE the people have spoken...

It's time to STOP the dirty polluting mining & go with greener, cleaner, safer alternatives.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

William Hutchings
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Anita J Wischhusen

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer: 

The State of Tennessee's request that all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area be designated as unsuitable for surface mining is the proper path to take.

This action will cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with the very important stream corridors.

Specifically, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. In addition this alternative must include one modification in ANY re-mining of old sites in the area: Both OSMRE and the State of Tennessee must jointly agree that such activity is both safe and environmentally beneficial over any potential damages done by the mining.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important matter.

At a time when we are seeing a national water crises, all votes should center around protecting water resources.

When I served as the Chief U.S. Probation Officer for the Eastern District of Tennessee I brought my staff to Big South Fork for a training meeting. The park was just beautiful and the thought of it being destroyed is heart breaking. Therefore I stand with NPCA by voicing my support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- -that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

We have lost enough mountains to bad mining practices. Let us protect what is left in the Cumberland area when it is even not suitable for mining, but might be mined anyway. Wildlife loses habitat and rivers and streams become badly polluted.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge-lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge-lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and Office of Surface Mining agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Frederick Bauman
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Carol Tao

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mark Edgren
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

Peter Biagioni
St. Charles, IL

Please preserve our public lands we need them now more than ever, and future generations will also have need of them.

I support the above protection plan.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Please protect these beautiful lands from the scarring of mining.

North Cumberland Wildlife lands are inappropriate for mining.
Being over 70 years of age I have seen many ecological disasters from Love Canal to streams in my area being polluted because there was little to no over site on dumping or polluting our environment. "We the People" Deserve and Demand Clean Air and Water. We Deserve and Demand that those in positions of authority / regulation due their utmost to protect the environment, that those with the ability to despoil are not allowed to. How many mountain top need to be blasted cleared removed before we learn that as our health once it is gone it is gone.

Bob Rayburn
U.S. Veteran 1963-1967

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Allen Yun

We need to protect the gems of our country.

Thank you,

ginger young

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Joan Torok
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1764</td>
<td><strong>stop the plundering!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1765</td>
<td>We need the mountains worse than we need the coal, leave it in the ground &amp; work on clean alternatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1766</td>
<td>We need to take care of the environment or there will be left for our descendants to enjoy. We cannot give in to destruction of nature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1767</td>
<td>Keep the mountains beautiful □ And well-maintained, □ As well as fully □ Protected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1768</td>
<td>Don't mine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1769</td>
<td>We can never have too much public land saved for future generations to enjoy. Once &quot;business&quot; gets to work a property it is lost forever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1770</td>
<td>It is vital to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River &amp; Recreation Area from surface mine development. Surface mining has been shone through long experience to impact even more territory than the huge crater required by such strip mines. Leaching of mine waste into streams and rivers, dam breaks pouring hundreds of thousands gallons of poisonous and corrosive chemicals, devastation of vital wildlife habitat, and destruction of magnificent scenery all accompany surface mining. Polluting this extensive river system poses serious risk to communities stretching far downstream. Protecting this area is the most beneficial and prudent course to take, for now and for the future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1771</td>
<td><strong>Angel Falls Overlook, Big South Fork □</strong> Click Here to Help Protect the Big South Fork! (This link will lead you to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's web form.) □ We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River &amp; Recreation Area! □ We can do this by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. □ This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is accepting public comments on alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this petition, and your comments are needed by Monday, January 25th. □ Stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. □ Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1772 | Please don't allow mining of the Black Hills mountains. Mountaintop removal destroys whole ecosystems and surrounding communities. Say no to this proposal.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dave Popoff

We have corrupted too much land in the name of progress. Progress that doesn't take into account the land that is vital to supporting the planet's life.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

We only have one planet, one nation, one Tennessee, and one North Cumberland. If we destroy it, it will never again exist. Do we really want to leave a Mad-Max style wasteland for future generations? Really? That's not what I want to be remembered for.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Stephen H Cross

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Harry D. Allen, III

---

No mining, protect this beautiful area.
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Cecilia Burns

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Lanny Rudner
I would like to submit my support for alternative #4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

James W. Hartley

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dale Hillard

Please stop trying to mine in our National Parks!

Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining!

Please leave parks and wild spaces as they are. There are already too few wilderness areas left.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Stephan Loubere

We saw this area and loved it.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Sincerely,

Stephan Loubere

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Susan LoFurno

no more mining!

Keep this land in its natural state. We need to be good stewards of our land. There is already too little remaining. Mining is destructive and unnecessary.

Haven't we destroyed enough land and water with mining?
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

As a frequent visitor to Tennessee, I support the State's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I support Alternative 4 with the modification to limiting re-mining.

Protection of wildlands and keeping fossil fuels in the ground need to be an American Priority.

I worked in the field of water quality for the Nashville District, Corps of Engineers from 1970-2004. During that time part of my job as a civil engineer was to evaluate the impacts of coal-mining on the water quality of impacted streams in the Cumberland Basin of Tennessee and Kentucky. I have virtually nothing good to say about the coal industry. They are great at making promises that they either cannot or will not fulfill. We do not need their coal badly enough to sustain the environmental damages to the lands and waters of the State of Tennessee which would inevitably result from their mining activities.

We need to take opportunities now to preserve important and special places. They are disappearing quickly and such opportunities will be then lost forever.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Hope things are well and take care.

Sincerely,

Brent Sirois

I believe conservation of our parks and lands is important to maintaining the diversity of species in our country as well as preserving our heritage as a people. Please pursue alternative energy resources to meet the growing demands of the American people.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Karon Allen

Cypress, TX  77429-4449

Environmentally sensitive areas in America should not be catering to the profits of the few to the detriment of America's citizens.

This land is unsuitable for mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,
Brenda Norris

Keep mining and logging out of these lands.

Don't do it

Stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4

Please no more surface mining or any mining in the Big South Fork.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Dennis O'Brien

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft

Nature needs us to be its voice!

When will you stop mining every single place in the country...leave it in the ground and stop ruining our environment!

Our national parks are one of our last remaining natural resources. Please do what you can to preserve them!
I support Alternative 4 with the modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

I live in West Virginia and have witnessed the damages to water, wildlife, and people that come from mining.

Thank you

Robert G. Unger

-----

Please stop destroying the Earth! It's where we all live!

We must not mine coal or frack oil. We must rather develop more non polluting sources of energy. Make use of all our wind and running waters and sun!

Protect wild places.

Please do not allow mining to take place in this sensitive wildlife habitat. This issue is very important to me.

Please do all you can to maintain the integrity of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as it has been in its original state (i.e., the Way God Made It). Once humans have razed and poisoned it into toxic non-existence there will be no ability to ReCreate it. We are not capable of that.

Save The Cumberland! No to Coal! Time for clean, renewable and safe forms of energy!

Protect Wildlife for future generations.

Save it alone. No mining, drilling, logging etc.

We must protect this planet and everything on it or we will fail to meet our moral obligations to the generations that follow.
I favor option 4. It is the most comprehensive and farsighted alternative. Tennessee is a coal production area just like Wyoming. It is clear that coal production is down and will go lower. Without an alternate use for coal or affordable pollution measures, coal mining may very well disappear entirely. Tennessee, like Wyoming, must adjust to that reality. Tennessee has wonderful wilderness that can serve as the bases for tomorrow's economy. Just reading the report on the diverse richness of the area makes me want to come to see the place for myself. It appears to have world class potential based on the natural heritage.

Dear Leaders,

The fragile and beautiful land you're reviewing needs to be protected for current and future generations! It is unsuitable for mining!

The minimal product that might be drilled does not justify the major destruction that would occur.

Mining would destroy the sensitive environment and awesome views of nature.

Please reject this project for Mining.

These unique acres are not suitable for mining and the destruction it creates.

Constance M. Weimer
Retired
Commissioner, FMCS

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Gerald Meslar

I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.
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<td>1833</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Chet Hepburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Save the land and wildlife!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Ian Sheridan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1836</td>
<td>Please support the Tennessee Lands which are unsuitable for mining draft Petition, We are counting on you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>We’ve got to keep fossil fuels in the ground and focus on developing clean, green energy!!!!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ucko
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Jean Ross

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Alida Bockino
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Richard M. St. Angelo, Architect

Extraction out, protection in.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you.

Ben Arnold

Mining is not a benign activity. In West Virginia many communities have no safe drinking water because of mine runoff.

Mountaintop removal is the ultimate destruction of habitat and can never be undone.

Our country has some spectacular geologic features and iconic wildlife. We can destroy them all by allowing mining anywhere a company wants to look for subsurface wealth.

I hope there are some things in this nation more valuable than a corporation's bottom line.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Lenore I Nieters

What happened? Did you find a clean river in Tennessee that wasn’t polluted yet? Such fools run this country. And greed rules supreme.

Clean rivers are vital for all life on earth.

Please protect our wilderness for future generations.
<table>
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| 1852 | I support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- -that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.  

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.  

Please vote for Alternative 4 to protect the beautiful Tennessee big South Fork National River.  

Sincerely,  
Ann Wasgatt                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1853 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

Sincerely,  
Brian Gray                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1854 | We need to save every possible area of wilderness, trees, water, land and wildlife possible. Too much of has already been destroyed for greed and profit. Once gone, it will never return. All life forms on earth, including vegetation, trees, birds, animals, insects...are vital to th survival of the planet and ALL life on earth.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1855 | I support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridge line as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- -that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area  

LOOK AT THIS LAND!!!  

No wildlife management area should ever be mined. It disrupts their habitat  

Preserve our National Landmarks, once destroyed they will be gone for ever. Save our National Resources and Habitat.  

| 1856 | LOOK AT THIS LAND!!!  

No wildlife management area should ever be mined. It disrupts their habitat  

Preserve our National Landmarks, once destroyed they will be gone for ever. Save our National Resources and Habitat.  

380
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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</table>
| 1859| I support protecting the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area.  

I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.  

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.  

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.  

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.  

Thanks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1860| I support alternative 4. Thank you.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1861| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

As a property owner on Douglas Lake bordering the beautiful mountains of Tennessee and Kentucky, I am aware of and have seen some of the destruction caused by the careless yet legal mining industry.  

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in limited cases.  

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, water quality and, most of all, for the continued long term use for recreation. These mountains can and should be forever.  

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

Sincerely,  

Mr. Jan C. Porter                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
<p>| 1862| Please designate this wildlife area from being destroyed by big oil companies!!!! |</p>
<table>
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</table>
| 1863 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely, Tracy Ouellette, MD |
| 1864 | Protect big south fork  
1865 Save it !!!  
1866 Please don't do any mining?  
Sincerely,  
Russell J. Novkov |
| 1867 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Jerry D Campbell |
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

Michael rees
Dear Connie,

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area!

We can do this by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

But we need your help to make this happen.

This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is accepting public comments on alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this petition, and your comments are needed by Monday, January 25th.

Stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Honore'
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Oleg Varanitsa

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Suzanne C Law
I was born and raised in West Virginia and I have seen the damage that strip mining has done to the beautiful mountain and I was heart broken when I saw this. This type of thing has to stop.

I am a retired nurse who worked 50 years in Nursing. Now, since I am retired, my mission in life is to try to fight for the environment and wild life etc, etc.

Here in Florida we are fighting to stop the Sabel Trail Gas company from putting a gas line in our county. They want to drill under the Suwannee river and put the line in order to cross the river. I have joined the Sierra Club, Walls, Green Peace.

We all need to fight for the environment!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

As a concerned American citizen I strongly support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I fully support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mha Atma S Khalsa

It seems to be an environmental mistake to proceed with this project.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sheilagh Creighton
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert Posch

No mining.
<table>
<thead>
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| 1881| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Jenifer Hartman |
| 1882| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
| 1883| Please leave the beautiful mountains for our future generations and wildlife |
| 1884| Stop |
| 1885| I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. |
| 1886| Haven't you ruined enough of gods green earth. ....???
We don't want any more accidents like the one on the Animas River. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Todd Hartman

---

I stand with the NPCA in support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

All strip mining needs to be banned: environmentally unstable, can't be re-claimed, major cause of erosion, and just plain unsightly.
To: LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I SUPPORT the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as UNSUITABLE FOR SURFACE MINING; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly SUPPORT Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

H. Johnsen

Please find this area as 'Unsuitable for Mining'

Protect our mountains

This land needs and deserves protection.

Please do not mine the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. It's a national treasure.

I write you in support of Alternative 4, which provides the best chance of preserving the natural state of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. I have vacationed in the area and have relatives living there, and we are appalled by the prospect of mining occurring in the area. I have lived in West Virginia and am personally familiar with the destruction of nature, particularly waterways, that is wrought by surface mining. Surface mining would destroy the natural beauty that draws so many visitors to the Big South Fork.

As a former OSMRE employee, I can assess that the Wildlife Area of North Cumberland is not suitable for mining because of its ecological fragility.

no surface mining!

PRESERVE AND PROTECT AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL AND ITS WILDLIFE. JUST SAY NO TO MINING!

These irreplaceable treasures belong to everyone and should be protected without exception.

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Please adopt Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.
Bring this antiquated law up to early 21st Century reality and needs.

It is time to protect our planet and the animals that roam it.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Ervin

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert Keller

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. These mountains can and should be forever.
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<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td>Joe Salazar</td>
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<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Todd Fisk</td>
</tr>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>Keep this free from mining.</td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
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| 1913| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
 I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Steve Uyenishi |
| 1914| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
 I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
| 1915| Even wild animals do not soil their own nests. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Denise Hagan Rubin
1918 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Ralph Sanchez

1919 Please save this area for all of the citizens of the united States!

1920 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Ginger Hill

1921 Please keep North Cumberland Wildlife management Area free of mining.

1922 The North Cumberland area is a priceless resource that belongs to the people and all future generations. To open it to mining will forever damage the area and it will be a loss to everyone.

1923 Enough is enough all ready. Open land does not mean burrow something in it. Nor does it mean build another oil making field. Another parking lot or another mini duplex city. Open land and trees mean breathing cleaner air. You know the stuff that you breathe everyday? No more mining, drilling, burrowing through our lands. Not good for all of us in health and the eco system. Some things should remain left alone and not messed with. In the long run productivity is VOID. Everyone suffers for greed, including the greedy.

You can not buy your way out of sickness.

1924 Please protect our beautiful mountains!
I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Greg Korelich
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

M. Nour Naciri, Ph.D.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support Alternative 4 for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Too much of the Appalachians have been mined into oblivion. Like Shakespeare wrote, The evil that men do lives after them, so minimizing evil is a real good idea.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dennis H
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Amanda Esposito

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Cannon
Please protect Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area by selecting Alternative 4.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Gertrude R. Battaly

Mining is not compatible with wildlife (not to mention most life), natural areas, and water. Please preserve the Wildlife Management Area Lands for the benefits of current and future citizens. These magnificent eco-systems must be preserved and nurtured.

Thank you.

L. Darlene Pratt

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I strongly support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Diane Krell-Bates
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Surface mining creates a scar upon the land. I would NOT want to view a scar when traveling through these beautiful lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Francis K. Degges

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Tracey Mangus

Its time to end the 1872 mining act and stop the mindless destruction of ecosystems and the life with-in those ecosystems. The toxic heavy metals from mining pollute water ways, wells and any life with-in those ecosystems from the tiny microbes in the soil to man. The 1872 mining act is an archaic and destructive law that sells land at prices of yesteryear and also allows massive pollution and contributes to not only global warming but to the death of every ecosystem on this planet. But also allows holding ponds and slag to be abandoned to create super fund sites that leaves the taxpayer on the hook for there cleanup and to foot the bill of this clean up. Enough of being in the pocket of lobbyist and end this destruction.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Karen Boehler

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Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Katherine Babiak

---

protect our wild lands for future generations

Please avoid more mining disasters!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

These mountains are so beautiful. All you need to do is see it, breathe the fresh air and the stress melts away. We need places like this especially in the east.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Bonnie McGill

Mining is dangerous for the environment and the people who live in close proximity. Please limit or eliminate mining in this area.

Mining profits very few and costs generations for centuries. The only lands that should be mined are the lands that have yet to be discovered.

No mining!!!!!!!!!

please do destroy orth cumberland wildlife area by mining

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Cliff Wilkinson

Stop leasing public lands to private entities to prophet over and pollute our environment!

Do not mine.
1951  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

   I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  

   I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  

   This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  

   Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

   Sincerely,  
   Anne Parzick

1952  In support of Alternative 4, which I am given to believe provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

1953  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

   I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  

   I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  

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   Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

   Sincerely,  
   Janet Delaney

1954  We must protect our natural resources for the health of our children's children as well as our current clean air supply and rightful homes of the wild creatures.

1955  Enough damage has already been done to our mountains.

1956  I am standing with National Parks Conservation Association standing for option 4 the preferred plan that declares over 550 miles of ridgeline unsuitable for surface coal mining. Our wild areas are much too fragile ecosystems to allow coal mining. With climate change accelerating and the need to sequester more carbon, this is not the time to destroy an area for coal.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Stephen Orsary

We support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. We have hiked and camped our way across the area and would love to have our grandchildren do the same.

We strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Lelia and Edward Lloyd

WE MUST CONSERVE AND CORRECT THE FORESTS OF AMERICA. WE MUST ALLOW THE GENERATIONS THAT FOLLOW US TO SEE, HEAR, SMELL THE FORESTS. IT IS THE HERITAGE OF AMERICA.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Diana Covington
Tacoma, WA

Coal is the absolutely worst fossil fuel that can be used, whether for energy or heat, the smoke emissions that result from the burning of coal are very harmful to the air quality of the local area, but also to the totality of the atmosphere due to the carbon emission generated by the burning. To destroy a beautiful landscape for the pure want of coal mining companies is not acceptable for those of us who appreciate the wonders of the world which God presented to us and told us to be good stewards of the land.

I Support alternative 4 which designates 569 miles of ridge as unsuitable for surface mining operations. Visitors spend over $170 Million a year in these 4 counties because of their pristine nature, so I support alternative 4 with the modification of not allowing re-mining.

Sam Simeone

We must protect the environment and the people and animals that live in this area. We need clean, renewable energy.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Elden J. Nedeau

Please protect the beauty and wellness of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area by forbidding the mining of the area. Thank you.

Here in Illinois we have seen what mining does. It ruins the environment. Extraction of resources is ugly and it needs to stop.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sabine Buergermeister

Stop companies from raping and polluting the land for greed and profit.

It is time to stop destroying the last few unspoiled areas on the planet just because some company decides they want to exploit it. It is especially galling when these are publicly owned lands. Nobody should have the right to lease PUBLICLY OWNED lands to companies that will destroy them. This must stop.

North Cumberland Wildlife area should remain a protected refuge, free from mining and drilling.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>France passed legislation last year that the roofs of all newly constructed buildings must be covered with either solar panels or CO2 reducing gardens. Our entire nation is serviced by just 3 power grids, making us very vulnerable to blackouts from terrorist attacks or acts of nature. 90% of electricity generated is lost in transit. Mandating and/or rewarding solar power is much more cost effective than upgrading the existing grids, the exorbitate salaries of coal miners, and the number of lives lost in coal mining, or the effects of nuclear waste that will be here long after our grandchildren's grandchildren are gone and the planet is probably covered with dinosaurs again. Nuclear waste and uranium mining should both be outlawed promptly and permanently. Keep it in the ground!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>America for Americans forever not destroyed for big business today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Patricia Chang</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Mining is killing off precious land that cannot be recovered. It is a horrid use of land and money. Furthermore, dangerous. There have to be protections!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Stop it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>I urge you to support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.</td>
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<td>1979</td>
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<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>This land is ALL of Our land, not just for profit at our expense land.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely, Vance Holmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>There should NOT be any mining in Wildlife management areas. How stupid can they be????????We need to be stewards for our land, Not destroyers!!!!!!!!!!</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td>J.Robinson</td>
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Weldon Williams

Mountains are our treasures—all over the planet.

Human is completely destroy Planet. STOP TO DO THIS! We MUST to leave the Planet for future generations!
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<td>Statement.</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brian Larson</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Protection of our land needs to be enforced</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>I support alternative 4.</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td>Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in</td>
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<td>Tennessee. The people of Tennessee deserve a future economy not tied to</td>
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<td>destruction of their environment and their water. It is unbelievable to me to</td>
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<td>view videos of the horrific landscapes that have resulted in areas where</td>
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<td>mountaintops have been blown off in the corporate quest for coal and the</td>
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<td>manner toxic waste ends up in water ways contaminating the environment of</td>
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<td>communities and animals. This must be stopped before the devastation is</td>
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<td>complete.</td>
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<td>No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted</td>
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<td>water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million</td>
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<td>per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local</td>
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<td>tax benefits. The people of Tennessee deserve a future economy not tied to</td>
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<td>destruction of their environment and their water.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity for a visitor and admirer of Tennessee to</td>
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<td>comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
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</table>
1993  I have been to Tn. Many times & spent Christmas '15 & New Year 2016 camping in Tennessee. such a Beautiful green state. Please keep it that way. NO surface mining to spoil your State. Thank You

1994  Protect rivers and national parks

1995  I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Patrick Vogelsong

1996  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Lesley Jeffords

Stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement— that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Katherine Hinson

Do not spoil this precious national resource. Do not mine here.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Lands Unsuitable for Mining</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| 2004 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □  
Sincerely, □  
Howard Barnes |
| 2005 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □  
Sincerely, □  
Martha Kelly |
| 2006 | Enough destruction! This environmental degradation is rape of Nature. It amounts to an erotic need to prove how dominant, and greedy, those people are in their machismo. |
| 2007 | no mining in protected lands. |
| 2008 | I support Alternative 4 to protect the Big South Fork from surface mining! |
| 2009 | Please help save our planet |
| 2010 | Please protect this area. So much depends on making wise judgments at this very critical time on earth. |
| 2011 | Our parks are a vital institution. They not only benefit us with their beauty and peacefulness, but they are home to many wildlife species. We can't destroy them by mining and drilling. Please protect our parks. |
2012 I live near major cities and deal with traffic, noise, congestion all the time. It's nice to be able to go to a park, whether it's a state or national park, to relax, hike, see the beauty of nature and get away from all the hustle and bustle. I also enjoy taking my dog for walks in the parks. I'm sure many, many other people do also. If you allow this mining and drilling it will destroy the park. This is not a good thing for people and it's definitely not good for wildlife and nature. Please protect the park and don't allow this mining and drilling.

2013 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Dr. Schwartz

2014 I grew up in Texas where there are lots of parks and vast lands of open space. I've lived in Maryland for over 20 years now and have learned to deal with smaller spaces, noise, traffic, etc. Being able to go to a park helps me feel like I'm back home sometimes. All of our parks need to be protected. People enjoy these parks for recreation, relaxation, viewing the scenery and wildlife. The wildlife depends on these parks for shelter and food. If we allow businesses to come into the parks to drill and mine we are hurting a lot of people and all the wildlife. We must protect our parks for every living being. The drilling and mining will be noisy, dirty and destructive. People won't enjoy going to a park if they have to listen, smell and see this. The wildlife will be run off and have to find new places to live and find food. With more and more development happening this is becoming more and more difficult to do. So please do what is right and do not allow this drilling and mining. There are too many lives at stake.

2015 Stop the terminal greed that would destroy our beautiful environment for the sake of money.

2016 Please protect these mountains.

2017 I am in complete agreement and support of the petition submitted by the State of Tennessee requesting that ridgelines within 260 square miles of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement be listed as unsuitable for mining.

As a forestry professional and an avid outdoors person, I am both professionally and personally aware of the fragility of these areas and the incompatibility of mining with maintaining their environmental integrity and the intent of the protections that were afforded these areas.

I am therefore requesting that the petitioned areas be set aside and excluded from any and all mining permits and leases.

Thank you for considering my comments in your evaluation of Tennessee's petition.
<table>
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| 2018 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Kathy Harvey |
| 2019 | Help us keep America clean and beautiful.  
Thank you. |
| 2020 | Mountain top or disturbance always causes some form of trouble for the environment, the people, loss of tourism (financial), health etc. Why should any one in this day result to such tactics. The way of the future is alternative energy. |
| 2021 | Thank you  
2022 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
While I currently live in Connecticut, I am seriously considering moving to Tennessee within the next two years. I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Tiffany Witmer |
| 2023 | I support Alternative 4, which preserves 569 miles of ridgeline from coal mining and limits remining of old sites. This option will best protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork River. |
| 2024 | Don't mine. |
| 2025 | Please restrict ridge top mining in Tennessee per my state’s recommendation. Set no irreversible precedent. Protect these vanishing wildlife management areas for posterity. I support Alternative 4. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, it is determined that safety and/or environmental benefits outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure. The long-term economic benefits of this mining restriction far outweigh those of ridge top mining. |
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Sandy Brooks

Stop the destruction!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I also strongly support Alternative 4 with this critical modification: that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. I have had the opportunity to travel through the State of Tennessee for recreational purposes many times, and this beautiful area should be preserved in its pristine state for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Hadlock

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael Haskell

every state park or so of are not ours to do what we want since it's GOD's and the environment which protects us and everything in it

Please protect the environment
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Dunn

People, we’re ruining our environment which is speeding up climate change at an alarming rate. This affects not just Tennessee, not just the United States but the whole world. This foolishness must stop and this is a good place to start. Do not allow that area to be mined.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Please protect this River & Recreation Area for the sake of my children and all future generations. Thank you.

PLEASE ban Ridgetop Coal Mining in the North Cumberlands!!! This region is so precious. I regularly use this land for hiking, photographing, and birdwatching - especially the cerulean warbler - a draw for my family and friends who do not live in this area. I strongly feel a better use for this land is for recreation and tourism - better not only for the people who live in Tennessee, but also for the economic future of our beautiful region.

Alternative 4 would be better as long as you restrict re-mining to areas that truly need it only.

It is past time that our public lands were given the protections they deserve. This includes protections from off site activities.
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| 2039 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I know what surface mining can do to the landscape. There several acres behind my property that the owner had surfaced mined in the 1970's that the land has never fully recovered.  
PLEASE designate all the ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.  
Thank You for allowing me to comment on the this important decision.  
Sonja F. Conatser |
| 2040 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Doug pynn |
| 2041 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely, |
| 2042 | We need to preserve this country...this earth....our home, not destroy it and all that inhabit it....especially for the sake of someone making money off of it. |
Why haven't we begun to switch from fossil fuels? Do you not see what is ahead for this world and ourselves due to our own detriment? I support keeping state and national parks from fracking and mining. Have you seen what happens to towns after your finished? Take a look at towns in Pennsylvania and tell me it's in the best interest of the public.

Save our parks
I agree that this area should be protected from any mineral extraction purposes and remain as is, a beautiful part of our environment.

I live in the Berkshire Mountains whose ridges are the delight of my eye and the places I most love to hike. I know these recreational uses of our mountains far outweigh their damaging exploitation in every economic and human way. So I am asking you to approve Alternative 4 in your consideration of the ridgetops of Tennessee, including the use of re-mining only where and when it gets approval by the State of Tennessee and OSMRE. Thank you for your attention.

Destroying the environment for profit is an immoral action by greedy people (other terms came to mind).

I write to support the request by the state of Tennessee to designate certain ridgelines and connecting stream corridors within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA) and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement (ERCA) as “Lands Unsuitable for Mining” (LUM).

I am frequently in these areas visiting friends and enjoying the natural environment and I am aware of the importance of these mountains for both their role as an economic asset to the state’s tourism, the headwaters for the Big South Fork, and as the most important breeding ground for the Cerulean Warbler. Because of their importance to the environment, I believe these lands should be designated as fragile and protected from extractive exploitation. The loss of forests cannot be replaced, at least not in a lifetime, and the potential for damage to the flora, fauna, water and wildlife is obvious and irrevocable.

I support Alternative 4 with the modification that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, it is determined that safety and/or environmental benefits outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure. I believe this modification will best meet the intent of the state to protect these fragile and important lands from surface mining, which is, I believe, essential for their health and the health of the region.

Sincerely,

Larry Hollon
<table>
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<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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| 2049| **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**
|     | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.
|     | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.
|     | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.
|     | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
|     | Sincerely,
|     | Marilyn Waltasti
|     | 20117 N. Geyser Drive
|     | Maricopa, AZ 85138 |
| 2050| **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**
|     | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.
|     | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.
|     | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.
|     | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
|     | Sincerely,
<p>|     | Lisa M Koehl |
| 2051| There is a mad rush to exploit all resources for profit. This needs to be replaced by conservation, efficiency and recycling of existing materials. |</p>
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<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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<td>2052</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David Ellison</td>
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<td>2053</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erik A. Schreiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:erik.schreiner@gmail.com">erik.schreiner@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2054</td>
<td>STOP DESTROYING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THIS PLANET!!!!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2055</td>
<td>Mining is destroying the environment. It should be phased out and those depending on this industry for their livings need to be retrained to provide renewable energy....</td>
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</table>
I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Joseph S. Harris
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Teresa Hill

North Cumberland wildlife. Area is unsuitable for mining. It needs to be left for the wildlife.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. As a child, I saw many times the devastation wreaked by strip mining in rural Muskingum Co. (OH) where my family was from: tops of hills sheared right off, huge slag heaps blighting the land, the runoff from which blackened the countryside and creeks for miles around.... And as an adult I have seen the fantastic revitalization accomplished when the coal companies - not wanting to spend any money restoring the land - donated 9,000 acres to a consortium of local community leaders and zoological researchers from the Columbus zoo. With the help of hundreds of local volunteers, they returned the land to its original pristine condition and created The Wilds, one of the foremost centers in the world for research/breeding of endangered species. I would not like the North Cumberland Wildlife Mgt. Area to have to suffer what rural Muskingum Co. endured before concerned citizens took the situation in hand and restored the land. It saddens me greatly that right now the scenic beauty and recreational opportunities which are Muskingum Co. and southeastern Ohio's big draw are once again threatened, this time by big oil companies intent on fracking in the area....

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen M. Taylor
Bloomington, IN

Mountains must stay
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2065</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sue Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2066</td>
<td>We have given over enough of our country to special interests...it's time we got serious about keeping our public lands for the public they were meant for...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2067</td>
<td>I know!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2068</td>
<td>Protecting the planet must be a priority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2069</td>
<td>How can you look at the land and even think to destroy. We only can destroy and never see again. STOP and rethink your plans. Money doesn't even enter the problem you will accomplish. Ask the people who care. DON'T Disturb THE LAND. PLEASE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2070</td>
<td>Tennessee lands unsuited for mining draft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2071</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. Alternative 4 is a good start. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2072</td>
<td>I support the National Park Conservation Association's alternative # 4 for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Thank you for your consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2073</td>
<td>I see the prevention of surface mining in mountains and virgin hills as the single most important conservation and preservation effort facing Americans. This destructive practice must be stopped now, once and for all.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Gertrude Glazer

Please designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. This will save this area from further potential damage from mining. The public will then be able to use this land for recreation which brings in a large amount of money to area.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sharon Cashman
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Edith Borie
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Liz Davis

It is obvious that surface coal mining operations would be incompatible with a wildlife refuge and other State and/or local land use plans or programs.

Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

I love this unique and beautiful part of the world. Please keep it beautiful!!!

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Lands are Unsuitable for Mining and must be protected.

Thank you

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

The purpose of this note is to express my support for the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Alternative 4 provides a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality and will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

I am writing to voice my support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dave Schmitt

Lillian Deslandes
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Karen Stanovich

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lucas

do not destroy the pristine area with mining, we do not need more carbon producing coal to pollute the world.

I am a paddler from SC who regularly visits the beautiful mountains and streams of TN. Certain portions of our country are simply too fragile and too beautiful to allow them to be be damaged by surface mining. This damage is both short-term and long. It diminishes the appeal of TN to visitors like me.

I support Alternative 4 modified to state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

Your great grandchildren and mine will thank you.

Please, please, please put a ban on ridge top mining! The environmental and even moral fallout of not doing so is unconscionable. As acitizen of Tennessee and world, I ask that you do THE RIGHT THING and ban this type of mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kristen L. Howard

Our grand children need our parks

We are land owners in Tennessee. One of the main draws that brought us to this purchase is the memory of times spent with my uncle, Frank Richardson, who was part of the NPS and Interior. Allowing mining on the public's land is abhorrent and against everything that public park-lands are meant to be.

Please do the right thing. To thine own self be true.
Dear Petition Administrative Officer:

As a former resident and frequent visitor to the southeast, I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a CRITICAL MODIFICATION that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

It is vitally important protect the people that reside in this beautiful area by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Charleen Chu

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. Wild untrammeled places are critical to wildlife and recreational users who contribute to the local economy.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sara Street
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Marijean Dornback

This will have a huge environmental impact that will affect generations to come. Please do not initiate it!

A mining operation will poison the surrounding habitat and neighborhoods for years to come. We must preserve our natural treasures to ensure the future of a habitable planet for our children and grandchildren.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Pete Klosterman

This modified Alternative 4 will provide better protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Remember: As an American citizen, "This land is OUR land" which we see as sacred and have elected you to represent US All. It is our intention to protect it continuously.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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</table>
| 2109 | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future.  
These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
| 2110 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Rebecca Ivy |
| 2111 | NO TO MINING MADNESS! PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM INSANE DESTRUCTION. INSTEAD OF MINING, RECYCLE MATERIALS! BE LESS WASTEFUL!  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Frances A. Rove

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Jan Hall

Keep the North Cumberland Wildland Wildlife Management Area in Tennessee as beautiful as God and nature has made it. We do not need to tear up the earth with more mines producing fuel that pollutes the air.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Beth Bridges

Protect the beautiful mountains of Tennessee.

RESPECT THE EARTH AND ALL LIFE FORMS. YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT POLITICIANS, BIG BUSINESS AND POWER & WEALTH. DO THE RIGHT THING!

Aren't Protected Wildlife Areas protected for development? Especially development that desecrates the area for millennia? Please - do not approve mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area in Tennessee. BTW: Is the Cumberland Gap - That famous passageway to the west located here too?

I support the state of Tn position on strip mining that the North Cumberland wildlife Management Area is unsuitable for mining. Thank-You, Rich Karsten.

I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

If this is opened to mining, all the treasures therein will be lost forever.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Giancarla Calzetta

Save our earth for the next 7 generations.

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

Thank you, Sincerely,

D. James Heaton
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Deanne O'Donnell

The world is in a commodity and raw material glut where more mining is not needed. Please protect this land and its wildlife from any mining operations! PLEASE!

Land mining that takes place anywhere poses certain dangers regarding land, air, and water. The fact that North Cumberland National Wildlife Area is open to the public, it should not be the decision of the government to decide whether or not it is O.K. to allow mining to take place on that piece of land.

As mentioned before, ANY land mining poses numerous dangers. Allowing mining on public land poses the same dangers to a lot more people as well as wildlife that inhabit that same area. Because it does pose so many more dangers in so many different ways, I am one of those that votes "NO" when asked if I feel it is safe enough to allow mining.

Please listen to me, as well as the numerous others, that are against allowing mining to be allowed. Thank you.

Dennis Landi

Save wildlife and forest land/mountains PERIOD
The constant destruction of this Earth has to end. Why I even have to write to ask a ENTITY to end it, is beyond me, because this EARTH belongs to ALL humans not just those who think they own ALL. This is a pure common sense issue. Abuse the Earth, it dies. Abuse a human it dies. How do you propose that future generations will survive on a rotting Earth? It does not take a genius to get that as long as mountains are removed, water is being poisoned and and our skies and air we breath polluted with chem trails, that it won't take long for life to die. So why should I have to beg you to get it right? Why should I have to ask you to end it so life in the future has a prayer of living? Excuse me but did someone appoint this government or entity ruler of all Earth and planets? I should not have to ask anyone to use common sense. They should have enough integrity to know better.

Please save this pristine area. Our Earth and all inhabitants of it need clean, unfettered areas to be protected from industry and hence pollution, overdevelopment, and all the ills that come with careless use of our beautiful planet. Please act with wisdom and generosity and protect this region. Thank you for your attention to this and for the proper action.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Sincerely,

Dondi Griffin

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Stephanie E.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Diane E George

WE REALLY have to preserve our land.

we need the government to step in and create renewable energy projects- - not raping the land that should be kept for the future children.

we need to make a big shift.

please do not mine in this area.

keep it for the future as it is

Save the wildlife. Stop the mining!

Please don't mine at the North Cumberland. We are running out of lovely natural areas and need to save them.
Comment 1. The time for the public to digest this document is way too short. It’s about a 5” thick document full of technical information that took 5 years to generate. The public comment period started right around the holidays at the end of 2015 with 30 days to react. That is not enough time for a good thoughtful process from all parties involved. Given the complexity, the stakeholders, time and space, I suggest this decision process be given about a year.

Comment 2. The State of Tennessee filed this petition in 2010 soon after it had purchased a conservation easement as I recall. The timber went to other parties, and I believe the minerals remained with the original owners, although I am not sure of the details. (we have 3800 acres next to Emory River Conservation Easement so I’ve paid attention there mostly). It appears to me that the State could have bought the minerals at that time, but chose to go the cheaper route of buying just a conservation easement. Now, with this LUM petition, they seem to be trying to get the environmental benefit of not having any mining without paying for it. Around here some would call this "a land grab". We have no problem with people doing what they want with their own property and if the State (or Federal) Government wants to buy these coal reserves, we think that would be the right and proper way to handle this matter.

Comment 3. This LUM calls for 600’ buffers on either side of ridges. On our property which is adjacent to Emory River, this would basically cut out the mountains on our property. Our ridges are about 2400’ and the flatter areas are 1500-1800’. I assume the rest of the mountains are similar so this would take a significant portion of property and resources away from the owners.

Comment 4. The northern Cumberland Plateau is one of the poorest areas of our state. There was a time I recall as I grew up here in the 50s, 60s, and 70s when there were a lot of jobs related to coal. The Surface Mining law came into effect and significantly hurt our economy and jobs. We’ve got to find a balance rather than just locking things up forever.

In conclusion I suggest that at the least this issue be extended by a year, or that Alternative 1 - No action be chosen, or ideally that if the government deems these lands in fact unsuitable for mining for the benefit of society, that society (through government) should buy these minerals outright.

As someone who has enjoyed the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, please do not open it up for surface mining. In addition to the recreational uses, the impact on wildlife habitats and water quality is too great. Please designate the land as unsuitable for coal mining.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 2143 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Sincerely,  
[Susan Garrison]  
Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality. |
| 2144 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Sincerely,  
Joan Bowden |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

SB

Stop letting the mining and energy companies rape the land and pollute the water.

Stop all fracking, mining.

Proposed Va pipeline in Appalachia by Dominion Power also horrible. Across Va to coast to sell to India. Very dangerous, disruptive, greedy.

Please protect what we have for future generations or they will only be able to see pictures of how beautiful this land was.

Please Support Modified Alternative 4

I am writing to support protection of the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and designation of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

I support withdrawal of more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protection of mountain ridgelines, and improved wildlife habitat and water quality in the region.

I join others in support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement: that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

These mountains can and should be forever. Please support a modified Alternative 4.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

William Anderson

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Leslie Armstrong
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Respectfully,

Harry Stone

I strongly support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. This is a beautiful area that can sustain economic benefits of tourism and spiritual refreshment indefinitely into the future if not scarred by mining. Mining, in contrast, provides limited economic benefits for a limited period with potentially large externalities.

I support a modified Alternative 4 requiring that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Stone

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining. I believe strongly we need to use our resources to increase the use of renewable energy.

The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are unsuitable for mining. To destroy pristine lands for short term profit is unwise, not ecologically sustainable, immoral and unconscionable. To sustain life on earth, we must not destroy life on earth. Investment in energy MUST be made in RENEWABLE, NON-AIR AND WATER POLLUTING, LIFE SUSTAINING SOURCES OF ENERGY. to invest in fossil fuels destroys air, water and as a result, our very ability to live on earth. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS PRISTINE AREA FOR SHORT TERM ENERGY NEEDS AND SHORT TERM PROFIT. KEEP THE LONG VIEW IN MIND.

I have seen the effects of mining all over parts of Pa where I grew up. It pollutes water and ruins the land. Do not allow mining in a beautiful wildlife/recreation area.
I support the state of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, to include all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with one important modification: Any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved only if the state of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage it would cause. This modified Alternative 4 would provide the best protection for the area’s scenery, wildlife, and water quality. It would benefit the local community by providing a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy going forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

No mining should be allowed in this natural haven.

I stand with NPCA by voicing my support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

As an avid hiker and botanist, I have very much enjoyed spending time in some of Tennessee’s natural areas. I hope to continue visiting your state as long as high quality natural areas remain.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2163</td>
<td>I have only recently gotten to fall in love with this area and I am looking forward to more time enjoy it's natural beauty. As avid kayker and hiker, I am convinced that preservation of our wild lands and wild waters will not only (1) sustain water access regionally, while (2) preserving species diversity; it will also (3) create long term job growth from tourism and recreational businesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I strongly urge Alternative #4, with modifications. This most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surface mining has a long, ignoble history in Tennessee; we have clear and convincing evidence of the catastrophic damage it routinely produces, into current times. The petition area should be designated as &quot;fragile lands.&quot; Headwater sources are essential to healthy downstream water. Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems already exist. It should be the exception rather than the rule. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2164</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Please keep in mind that coal-fueled power plants are on their way out--we need to protect the future of our lands for future industries such as tourism. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2165</td>
<td>support the environment, not the mining interests!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2166</td>
<td>North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2167</td>
<td>I don't know what you want me to say!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2168</td>
<td>Constant destruction of pristine land is unacceptable, once gone it cannot be reversed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2169</td>
<td>I support alternative 4 with no remining.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Helen Logan Hays

---

NO MORE MINING, ANYWHERE!!!!!!!!!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Cecilia F. Young

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please protect North Cumberland !

keep our parks in tack and save from destruction.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</table>
| 2175| **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

William A. Greene

| 2176| Any Public/Peoples' Lands, Wildlife Management Areas, etc should NEVER be available for Mining or Extraction activities. These are lands for the People and Natural Animal and Plant life. It is criminal to be gifting them to private corporations for their destruction and profit.

| 2177| Wildlife Management lands are not suitable for any sort of mining.

| 2178| Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

| 2179| **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**

I don't live in Tennessee, but I'd like to visit sometime. I have lived in VT, NH, ME, and CO where the importance and majesty of mountains part of our identity. I've also lived in NY and MA where the mountains' shadows are a little shorter, but where the rivers are intrinsic to life. If we don't keep our ecosystems safe, we humans will all lose our souls.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Abigail Gindele

Portsmouth, NH
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Stacey Bradley
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hiestand

An environmental study must be done to evaluate the ecosystem services provided by the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands before releasing this ecosystem to exploitation. Without knowing what we do, we run the risk of irreparable damages that the citizens of Tennessee must endure and be asked to make right later on.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hiestand

Recreation is more important in this area and economically it makes no sense to allow mining in the headwaters of Big South Fork. Please remove this area from consideration for mining activities. I support alternative 4.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Terrence J. Ward

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Carol Chappell
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Barbara J Allen
4816 Petersburg Rd.
Knoxville, TN  37921

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Bentley

All mountains are sacred and NO mining especially mountaintop removal should be allowed

Please protect the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands from the devastation of mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Mary Allen

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I agree with the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Dorota Kolodziejczyk
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

I live in a state where surface mining is occurring and believe me, you do not want this for Tennessee. This method has created a lot of air and water pollution which affects the health of the people and animals in the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Matt Walker
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Douglas Gruenau

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

Please support Alternative 4, with a modification, so that old sites are not automatically approved.

The State of Tennessee is right to request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Clark

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I strongly support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. Coal mining operations in all regions of our country have seriously deteriorated the quality of the air, water, environment and recreational industries of those areas for decades. With the new available sources of alternative energy for power plants there is no rational reason for this situation to continue in our nation.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

B. Petitpas

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

John Glynn
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Humble

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

A. Gardner

It is wonderful when a state want to protect its natural environment from pollution and destruction in the face of greedy exploiters. Please support the State of Tennessee's alternate proposal.
I am strongly opposed to surface coal mining anywhere but especially in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. My family and friends spend a considerable amount of time each year horse back riding in this beautiful area.

The usage of coal is on the decline, tourism in Tennessee is on the increase. Please don't spoil long term gain for the short term.

We strongly support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Mary and Ed Rutherford
3987 Bennett Rd.
Morrow, OH 45152

A very bad idea.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Shirley J Bailey
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Marie T Perkins

---

Dear Director Bandy:

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy, we are writing in support of the State of Tennessee petition to designate over 67,000 acres within the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for coal mining.

We agree with OSMRE that surface coal mining in the area would be incompatible with existing state and local land use plans. OSMRE concluded that surface mining operations would be incompatible with the 2015 Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan and Tennessee's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

We also agree with the petitioner that the area affected are fragile lands and that coal mining operations would result in significant damage to natural systems and bird species of conservation concern. OSMRE has concluded that valuable wildlife habitat could be significantly damaged by surface coal mining, specifically forest-dependent birds such as Cerulean Warbler. While OSMRE found that only a portion of the area meets the definition of fragile lands, we disagree, and urge that the entire petition area be designated as fragile.

American Bird Conservancy recommends a modified version of Alternative 4 that would designate 569 miles of ridgeline covering 76,133 acres plus connect the descending ridgeline corridors all the way to the stream corridors. In addition, limitations must be put in place to ensure that remining is only employed in the designated area where both the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the benefit of environmental remediation justifies the sites exclusion from the area.
Because I have visited this area several times, and appreciate the unique beauty it has to offer, I am writing to voice my concern.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Diane Chielens

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Mountain-top Removal destroys the natural eco-system of the the entire region and can adversely affect the region's water supply as well.

Do Not destroy the Big South Fork with mountain-top mining.

Thank you

Charles

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Gisela Schloss-Birkholz

Preservation of the original landscape as supported by the State of Tennessee is crucial to good watershed management practices.

Consider the long term affects of what you do to the environment, something can't come back from the damage done!

please don't ruin the land

Money, Money, money= greed, greed, greed

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I ride my horse at Big South Fork, and every person that utilizes this unique and beautiful property should protect it for others who haven't found it yet. Tennessee has a wonderful opportunity to preserve something that cannot be replaced.

Please do your part to clean up America!

Halt the destruction Coal River Mountain and support the Coal River Wind Project. The wind farm would generate increased revenue that could be used to rejuvenate and diversify the region's economy.

The Coal River Wind Project address the nation's two biggest challenges: stabilizing both our climate and our economy. The development of a wind farm will provide enough power to 70,000 West Virginia homes and provide permanent jobs and $1.7 million in taxes to the county every year.

this area is unsuitable for mining
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Ms. Stime

preserving the beauty of our fair land for the future
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Horst Stapelfeldt

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Regards,

Gary Boerner

Leave North Cumberland Wildlife area alone. No mining. Leave it in the ground.

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area is unsuitable for surface mining.

we must preserve all these lands for all the next generations to come
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2233</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jeanne F Doherty</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thomas Straehle</td>
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<tr>
<td>2235</td>
<td>Please support Alternative 4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2236</td>
<td>There is only one planet Earth. We need to cherish and respect it.</td>
</tr>
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Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Janell Smith

I was taken to see this area as a child and I would hate to hear of it being decimated for mining of any kind. Beauty and peace are rare and precious things the appreciation of which is what makes us human.

Hands off our beautiful land. If ever you must mine, replace what you take off. Do not destroy mother Earth.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Armando A. Garcia
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

It's a great idea to support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

it would be much better to completely ban forever surface mining, period. forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Jon Singleton

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, D. Bryan
ID Correspondence

2248  The North Cumberland Area is unsuitable for any mining!!!! Please Do Your Job!!!! Protect this beautiful wildlife area from the disaster of mining!!!!!!! There are numerous ancient Native American sites on the bluffs as well as cliff paintings!!!! Early man in North America was here!!!! Mining as it is done today will destroy the scenic as well as the historic beauty of our precious mountains !!! Our wildlife will die and our streams will fill with silt and debris and aquatic life will be gone!!! Please stop this practice, mining, now!! Thank you for taking our comments. Sincerely, Mark M. Tolley

2249  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

George Hasapidis

2250  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Melissa Wales
2251  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Donna Thelander

2252  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the state of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. I understand that this request covers all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with the modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the state of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will provide the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be protected now and in the future.

Thank you for the chance to comment on this Draft EIS.

Sincerely,

Melanie Cypher

Dallas, TX
We strongly encourage the Office of Surface Mining to adopt Alternative 4 providing protection for a 1200’ corridor on 569 miles of ridgetops of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement as Lands Unsuitable for Surface Mining. In 2010 the State of Tennessee defined the area as "a priority action area, ranking high or very high for aquatic and terrestrial biological diversity" and requested OSM make the Lands Unsuitable for Surface Mining designation. OSM itself recognizes the area as "a biologically valuable part of Tennessee." Mining the ridgetop is incompatible with state wildlife management plans, while protecting ridgetopses will have a positive effect on water quality in the area and in parks such as the Big South Fork National River and Recreation area. Ridgetopses need to remain intact if aquatic and terrestrial biological diversity is to survive.

Alternative 4 allows re-mining and restoration of areas previously mined and we would request that this activity be restricted to limited sites which have been determined jointly by the State and OSM to provide safety and/or environmental benefits that outweigh damages caused by the activity. According to the National Resources Defense Council, "Over the past 30 years only a fraction of disturbed land in Appalachia has been reclaimed to even minimum standards." Where topsoil has been removed in the mining process, biological communities within soil are no longer intact limiting biological diversity. That suggests that restoration will seldom be successful but perhaps re-mined areas can at least be made safer.

Tourism is the most important and least impactful economic activity in Tennessee employing 1420 in the area while mining accounted for only 135 jobs there in 2013. Destroyed ridgetopses and polluted creeks and rivers have no appeal to tourists drawn here by Tennessee’s natural beauty. Sen Robert Byrd in 2009 recognized that coal mining jobs are in decline with the advent of "mountaintop mining." Coal mining jobs here will inevitably disappear. Ridgetop mining scars are forever.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgetopses in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgetopses extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Turner
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Dennis B. Munger

stop mining!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Sincerely,

Steven Hayworth

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

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Sincerely,

Elaine McCabe
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[Your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,
Bernard Berauer

Please preserve the Cumberland, for future generations, enough with rapacious mining, we are destroying our own nest.

We must maintain the preservation of our lands.

No more permits for coal mining. All of our effort must be directed to increase renewable energy production.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Regina Flores

Keep our national treasures clean and natural. thank you

keep ALL of OUR public land, parks, and forests free from any miners, oil wells,natural gas or fracking corporations.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mary Pettengill

Love this area - my grandparents live nearby - and don't want to see it ravaged by mining.

Let's keep our country beautiful for our children and grandchildren!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

James Kellett

Please protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area! I support the state of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. We need the petitioned 76,000 acres withdrawn from surface mining, the mountain ridgelines protected, the wildlife habitat improved, and the water quality.

We simply cannot continue to allow corporations to destroy our wild places so they can make money. It's unconscionable. Why should greed and corruption be allowed to ruin innocence and beauty? Not only for now, but for future times as well, it is critical that we stand up and stop this insanity once and for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Save our natural lands.

Protect our land
I support alternative 4. I am a frequent visitor to the Cumberland Plateau and find the compromise represented by alternative 4 to be important to protection of ridgelines in Tennessee from destruction by surface mining operations. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

I support Alternative 4, with one important modification. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, it is determined that safety and/or environmental benefits outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure. This position most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate this area as unsuitable for surface mining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Barry H. Wright

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Anna Simle

These lands and national resources need to be PROTECTED - FOREVER!!

Sincerely, Clay
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2279</td>
<td>The North Cumberland Wildlife Management area in Tennessee is a lovely area of mountains which are beautiful scenic lands which should not be desecrated by mountain top removal for coal. In the interest of scenic beauty and a move from dirty fuels to decrease the increase of climate warming I ask that you deny the permit. As a former resident of the mountains of Western North Carolina, I am aware of the dangers of mountain top removal - the pollution of streams, the heath hazards of coal ash, and the harm to the wildlife in the area. The mountains should be kept intact for all citizens to enjoy not destroyed so a few can accumulate more money. Thank you for considering my opinion. Jane Jatinen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2280</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for your consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2281</td>
<td>Please save our lands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2282</td>
<td>I support Alternative 4 and a limitation on re-mining in the petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area in TN as unsuitable for mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2283</td>
<td>Please act now to preserve and protect these lands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2284</td>
<td>I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2285</td>
<td>Please protect the N Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, The ecological and biological importance is critical!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for your consideration, regards,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mitch Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2286</td>
<td>We are against mining! Save the forest!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2287 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

Sincerely,  
Scott Turner |
| 2288 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  

Sincerely,  
Katy Whitehouse |
| 2289 | no mining in wildlife areas  

When we protect Mountains, we can preserve the pristine beauty for lifetimes to come. Please let the mountains be protected; let the mountains be pristine.  

God gave us the Mountains. Nobody has the right to destroy the beautiful mountains that we all enjoy! |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nancy DeSecki

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Francine Cantor
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

John White

STOP DESTROYING OUR EARTH!! STOP THE MINING!!!

This modified alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality; this alternative 4 is doing the right thing at the right time. Beyond a doubt these mountains can and need to be forever. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Patrick Rowland

Keep it in the ground and protect these vanishing mountain landscapes.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Please protect the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area from mining development.

I am deeply concerned about the environment.
I wholeheartedly support the petition to protect more than 500 miles of Cumberland Mountain bluffline from ridgetop mining. These lands are the future natural and recreational heritage of the people of Tennessee (a use that will have far greater economic impact on the region than short-term coal mining profits ever will. They also harbor numerous important archaeological sites important to our understanding of Native American and pioneer history in the region, and they shelter significant ecological communities including rare and endangered species, and they are non-renewable resources that should be preserved. Equally important, the coal industry is dying in the face of new technologies and energy resource developments because it uses non-renewable landscape resources in inefficient even destructive ways. To renew such mining activities in Tennessee now is short sighted and economically unintelligent. I urge the OSM to make the wise and economically viable choice to protect these lands now.

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification...limiting re-mining

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Joan DeLauro
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all of the ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that re-mining of old sites in the area should only be approved in those limited cases where OSMRE and the State of Tennessee agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining substantially outweigh the damage certain to be caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 provides the best protection for the land, wildlife and water quality. It will protect the people by providing for a more sustainable recreation and tourism based economy in the future. These beautiful mountains were created by God to care for the wild animals, to clean the water and to provide oxygen for the lungs of all of God's creatures.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement and for considering my input.

Sincerely,

Todd Hildebrandt

The rivers, and especially the headwaters of rivers, should be protected and conserved, not used for commercial purposes that will surely damage, pollute and destroy them!

In the aftermath of the Paris talks surely you have a duty to abide by the objectives reached there. This means less, not more pollution from fossil fuels. Do you intend to give the finger to the guarantees made by your government to reduce emissions. For shame.

Alternative 4 will at least preserve most of the new area you and your commercial cohorts are salivating over.

The future of this world is dependent on a healthy environment not more money in the hidden bank accounts of stockholders.

I feel that it is necessary to preserve and protect as much of our natural heritage as possible Why? we should protect wild lands for health reasons: economic, ecological and, yes, spiritual and psychological reasons. Thank you for your attention. Sincerely, Don Cronin

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all the ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Deb Skup

The expression "rape of the land" is more relevant today than ever before. This is an opportunity to act responsibly before it's far too late in this time of final hours for the earth in so many places.
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<tr>
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| 2313 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining including all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Barr

| 2314 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you.

C. Evans

| 2315 | **Quit running our country for the sake of greed.**

| 2316 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

It is important to protect our lands. Once they are degraded, they are gone forever as they were.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mary F. Helmon

| 2317 | **I support Alternative 4 with regards to the Big South Fork and hope that you will, too. Thanks!**
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[your name here]

Dear Sir or Madam:

I strongly support Alternative 4 of the Environmental Impact Statement since:

* It preserves a pristine watershed, and the associated public aquifer, from the inevitable destruction caused by surface coal mining.
* This destruction is irreversible and can't be mitigated within a reasonable timeframe due to the heavy metal toxicities created by surface coal mining and,
* Coal mining, surface and otherwise, should cease in the USA since it perpetuates the use of a dirty fossil fuel: dirty at extraction, dirty at combustion, dirty at waste disposal. Other renewable energy technologies are emerging that offer a far cleaner product life cycle.

Best regards,

Don

I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Ours is a very ancient mountain range. Who are we to destroy or modify them. Our interference with earth continually demonstrates our lack of vision.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Catherine Sugg

Please protect what is left of our natural environment. The health of the planet should be our first priority.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Janet Kogan
I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

The Cumberland Plateau has suffered enough coal extraction and it is time to return it back to the public by protecting what we can. Surface mining in the eastern United States should go the way of the dinosaur - extinct. The benefits of not mining far exceeds the environmental costs of extraction. I attended the public meeting in Clinton and there were several comments about 'taking peoples mineral rights away'. From the map, it looks as though much of these rights are owned by public agencies (TVA) and large land holding companies that own extensive acreage. I don't really think the loss of the revenue will adversely affect their bottom lines. The highest value of these ridge lines is their natural state.

Biological diversity includes all kinds of environments and these ridge tops are important to maintain this.

My preference is Alternative 4, but I would like to see very restrictive guidelines on what can be re-mined. In my opinion there are few cases where re-mining will be more beneficial than leaving areas that have been reclaimed by nature alone. If re-mining is warranted to reduce damaging run off to streams, then that would be one instance that I would accept.

Thank you for serving the public.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.
<table>
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</table>
| 2331 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
|      | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
|      | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
|      | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
|      | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
|      | Sincerely,  
|      | Karen Sewick |
| 2332 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
|      | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
|      | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
|      | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
|      | I have relatives in Tennessee that I visit often. I care about the water they drink.  
|      | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
|      | Sincerely,  
|      | Betsey Porter |
| 2333 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
|      | As a visitor to the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area, I stand with the NPCA in support of Alternative 4 with one crucial improvement: that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process.  
|      | With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the important headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.  
|      | Thank you for considering my views in your DEIS. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Rhonda M. Marrone

What part of no more mining do you guys not understand? There shouldn't have to be such an epic battle on the part of citizens to stop our gov't from destroying the environment. Get with the program Tennessee gov't and do the right thing to save the Big South Fork area. Thank you.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert Uecker

Protect Big South Fork forever.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Adam D'Onofrio
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mark Gorsetman

Our mountains must be protected, and our entire environment as well.
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| 2343| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,                                                                                                      
|     | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.                                                                                           |
|     | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.                                                                 |
|     | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.                                                                 |
|     | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.                                                                                                                                  |
|     | Sincerely,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|     | David J. Boyer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2344| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,                                                                                                      
<p>|     | As someone who has been privileged to enjoy this wonderful area, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.                                                                                           |
|     | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.                                                                 |
|     | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.                                                                 |
|     | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.                                                                                                                                  |
|     | Sincerely,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|     | John W Pankhurst                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2345| I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge-lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge-lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.                                                                                           |
|     | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.                                                                 |
|     | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.                                                                 |
|     | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.                                                                                                                                  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2346</td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2347 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
| 2348 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
As an American who values our unique American natural heritage, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 but with the critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I look forward to your leadership in fulfilling the solemn responsibility of our public authorities to preserve American's natural heritage.  
Sincerely, |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mike Beer

Too many UNSUITABLE areas in the U.S. have been destroyed by mining - and corrupt politicians!
LEAVE NORTH CUMBERLAND WILDLIFE LANDS ALONE!!! The mining industry has so much to answer for already - NO MORE DESECRATION, PLEASE!!!

Protect!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Pamala Eaton

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support Alternative 4 with the modification that Alternative 4 should states that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State And OSMRE, it is determined that safety and/or environmental benefits outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure. This position most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate this area as unsuitable for surface mining.

Ridgeline mining would affect recreation values and thus tourism dollars to a state which welcomes those dollars. Surface mining will impact and destroy important breeding habitat for the Cerulean Warbler found in few other areas in such numbers. Being on the headwaters of the Big South Fork, a National Park Service site, restricted surface mining would alleviate the damage to the Park's water resources and many declining aquatic species. This is a federally protected site and all care should be taken to protect. Further, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because even with compliance with all permitting requirements and modern methods of reclamation, a mature forest can't be replaced in a biologically relevant period of time. There must be consensus between the State and OSMRE before any remining permit can be approved. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area, and for the economic future of the region. Tourist supported 1,420 jobs in this four county area while there were 135 people employed in surface mining in Tennessee in 2013. Must we sacrifice so much for so few?

Sincerely,

Chris Worcester
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2356</td>
<td>Please protect the land before it's too late. Thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2357</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2358</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □</td>
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<td>□ I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □</td>
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<td>□ This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Sincerely, □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Elizabeth Manske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2359</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □</td>
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<td>□ Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Sincerely, □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ GBB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Rosemarie Jones

Please preserve our land for future generations. Mining causes irreparable damage to nature from the visible scars and deforestation to the pollution that runs into the waterways. This damage can never be repaired and the threat this poses on the environment and health of our citizens is too great. Please, I urge you to protect the health and well being of our nation by preventing further mining and degradation of our natural resources.

Thank you for your efforts to care for our natural resources.

Sincerely,
Anne Doane

Any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

Please protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area!

Mining is bad for the earth, the air and the water. Mining is bad for all living things on the planet, except the few very rich people who gain from it. We, the majority of people on the planet, want mining to stop so we can have clean air, water and soil. So trees can go on growing and creating oxygen. So our natural waters can fun freely and cleanly. So sunlight can touch the trees and warm the soil so we may grow food.
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Georgie Peterson

Alternative 4 is the only plan that makes sense. thanks!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I also support historical non-mining family homesteads in these mountains. People should not lose their homes or farms when they can be incorporated into preserving the land, wildlife and water quality.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sherry Pennell
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Mary Clare Barker

Alternative 4 should be supported, with the provision that re-mining of old sites in the protected area be approved only in the few cases in which the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process.

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands is Unsuitable for Mining. Protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area, thank you!

Please stop destroying this corporations. The land belongs to all america.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
H. Guh

It is so very important to protect beautiful vistas like this and prevent devastating surface mining.

the animals and earth need to be saved

As graduate of UT Knoxville, I fondly remember visits to the Big South Fork area. Please preserve!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2379</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Nancy K. Metz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2380</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2381</td>
<td>It is time to end coal dependence and invest in developing alternative economic solutions for the communities now tied to the detrimental coal industry. In doing so preserving a balanced and health environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2382</td>
<td>no mining, leave the wildlife alone before there is nothing left.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kevin Buterbaugh

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Dowson
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Carole Osborn

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)

Tennessee Office

4443 Pecan Valley Rd. Nashville, TN 37218

phone: 615.313.7066   email: tnpeer@peer.org

We are writing to ask that you support the LUM petition of the state of Tennessee. Specifically we urge you to go with Alternative 4 with slight modification that would allow re-mining in limited sites that the state and OSM concur are safe with environmental impacts greater than adverse impacts.

The LUM areas are of tremendous value for scenic and recreational use that are in conflict with the high impacts of mining. After years of adverse mining impacts, many of which have not been rectified, this is an opportunity to prevent more, which supporting other uses with greater public and economic benefits.

This has been a slow process that is too long in coming, but please now take this opportunity to approve this LUM petition.

Sincerely,

Barry Sulkin

Director

Tennessee Office

PEER
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<tr>
<td>2387</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Elizabeth Kawazoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2388</td>
<td>The living legacy for every American Citizen is how well we protected our countries wild life and the wild and open spaces that they depend on to survive. Every living Creature Deserves to Live and Die Free..!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2389</td>
<td>I do not support mining in this environmentally sensitive area - North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2390</td>
<td>This is environmentally unstable!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2391</td>
<td>To Whom It May Concern, I would like to defend the watershed of the Big South Fork National River &amp; Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area from the degradation of surface mining. I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. Moreover, I strongly support Alternative 4 with the critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Managing the N. Cumberland Wildlife Mgmt. Area into future decades for the highest and best use for the majority should be your [our] goal for these lands. Therefore some realities. Fact: coal is declining; mining companies are closing. Fact: Desire for and use of green areas for public recreation is growing significantly. Results of this shift are the economic benefit to the communities will be much greater if these lands are left not open to mining so as to keep them in a natural, unchanged by man status...For public recreation uses that does not degrade it.  

I write in support of Alternative 4. From my reading it offers the best way to give the growing American public future green, forest lands on which to hunt, camp, hike and just generally recharge from stressful city life. 

Please do the right thing. Please do not allow any steps toward mining pristine green lands. Also any mining of old mine lands must be done to enhance them for forest based public recreation in the years beyond. These actions will do the best for the local communities and those living in nearby cities. 

Please take the long view. Stand up to the, no doubt, strong local, big money political pressures. 

Thanks.

You can't make any more land, especially land as beautiful as North Cumberland, TN! This is a land grab to benefit the wealthy!

Save the area for generations to come.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Cupp
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Rachel Frost

I strongly support the State of Tennessee in its effort to protect the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area by removing the area from potential surface mining in the future. The President's recent withdrawal of Federal lands from future Coal Mine leasing should be the guide for all Federal agencies. This area is to valuable to destroy for short term profit by private interests of the coal companies.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Richard Crosland

Support alternative #4

Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of the Big South Fork, the North Cumberland Mountains with its myriad natural treasures. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in this four county area are jobs that would be on-going; once natural resources are extracted from the ground (mining) the jobs are gone! My husband and I love to camp and hike in the Big South Fork. What a treasure it is and Tennessee should be so proud of it, should want to protect it and its headwaters to generations to enjoy.
Public lands should not be used for mining, drilling or any other corporate endeavor. We need to use Solar or Wind for our energy needs. We know that mining is catastrophic to the environment. Humans know better so why are we not doing better?

When we are finished stripping the Earth it will not matter how much money anyone has.

Protect the Big Southfork. This is OUR HERITAGE.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

As an RV camper who loves camping in Tennessee I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kurtz

No more mountain top removal or any other type of surface 'mining'!

Stop the destruction!!!

Please halt all mining operations in the north Cumberland Mountain. This is beautiful land, my family has hiked in these mountains for years and are totally opposed to any mining especially strip mining. Add my name to the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition.

Michael White

None
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kelly Wood

Please no more poisonous destructive surface mining.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

You have an incredibly beautiful state, please remember that when requests to tear it to pieces for profit arise!

Thank you!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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</table>
| 2411 | Angel Falls Overlook, Big South Fork **☑**  
|     | Click Here to Help Protect the Big South Fork! **☑**  
|     | *(This link will lead you to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's web form.)* **☑**  
|     | Take Action**☑**  
|     | Dear Robert R.,**☑**  
|     | We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area! **☑**  
|     | We can do this by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. **☑**  
|     | But we need your help to make this happen. **☑**  
|     | This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is accepting public comments on alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this petition, and your comments are needed by Monday, January 25th. **☑**  
|     | Stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- -that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. **☑**  
|     | Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike these mountains can and should be forever. **☑**  

2412 | Keep the N.Cumberland land for wildlife not mining.  

2413 | "I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.**☑**  
|     | "I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.**☑**  
|     | "This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.**☑**  
|     | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.**☑**  

2414 | Protect the South Fork area which is unsuitable for mining  

2415 | Tennessee was my home. It's one of the most beautiful green places.**☑**  
|     | I would hate to see it looking like parts of West Virginia. It's horrible what mining does to our environment. **☑**  
|     | I'm all for leaving it in the ground.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Miller
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2418</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer:</td>
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</table>
| | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
| | I think it is crucial that the Big South Fork River and Recreation Area be protected from surface mining. I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with a critical modification: that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Further, I think remining of old sites should be restricted. Surface mining destroys habitat for wildlife, and results in pollution of the water table.  
| | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
| | Sincerely, |
| | Lucinda R Murphy |
| 2419 | No mines. |
| 2420 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, |
| | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
| | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
| | This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
| | Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
| | Sincerely, |
| | Nina Garfinkel |
| 2421 | We need to protect our lands, especially in the eastern states which have already been repeatedly raped and destroyed. Please do not continue doing so. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Megan Kearns

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Mueller
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

James M. Haag

There should be NO mining in any wildlife management areas.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Latina

To whom it may concern:

I write to voice my strong support for the protection of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area in Tennessee and for the prohibition of mining of any kind in this area. I also support the prohibition of any other kind of development that would jeopardize the pristine environment at the headwaters of the Big South Fork River. This is an area that is vitally important to maintain good water quality and a healthy habitat for both wildlife and humans. Please vote in favor of Alternative 4 as it is the best plan that has been put forward for preservation of this area.

I hope you will act in the best interests of present and future populations by supporting Alternative 4.

Thank you,

Katharine Overlock

Any land that is inhabited by our precious animals must remain untouched. We have so little left for the ones that were here on this earth 1st! If this action is allowed, we will be showing, even more, disrespect for our earth, the atmosphere, animals and people. Before we experience any further loss, we must stand strong in preserving our earth, animals and people. I implore you to leave this land alone!
<table>
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| 2431 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
I spend a great deal of time in the area each year during summers and falls with my children and grandchildren. These areas should be preserved and maintained for our future generations. Please lets not continue to destroy what we have been charged to protect.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Luis A Lugo  
Ret, USAF |
| 2432 | I support Alternative 4 to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area with one critical modification: limiting re-mining. |
| 2433 | Protect our natural land from mining and climate change. |
| 2434 | Do not Destroy National Parks the environment & Wildlife! Thank you. |
| 2435 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Ken Liesche |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Desiree Herrera

Leave the land alone

Please do all you can to protect this area.

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

thanks

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. As stewards of living planet, it is our responsibility to ensure the sustainability of all of our natural resources of all living beings. These mountains are a crucial part of providing a good quality of life for every living being.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Respectfully,
Jean Marie VanWinkle

Stop the mining and start the renewables.

The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands is Unsuitable for Mining. I am certainly no expert but I do know that precious few open spaces are protected at all and those that are need to be fully protected. In a world where humans beings are causing a world wide species extinction rate that rivals any in the history of the world I might go as far as to say that the open areas that are protected today must be protected even from people just walking on the land. But mining, not on protected lands. Peace, Hugh

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are Unsuitable for Mining
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Joan Hansen

Please no mining or destruction of this land. We must protect the land.

We only have one earth; we must protect it.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Regina Flores

Even though I live in the UK I support the North Cumberland petition against mining in such a beautiful place. Wildlife would be seriously affected & the risk from mining affecting the headwaters of the Big South Fork river. We've seen very recently rivers being affected in Colorado & in Brazil with serious consequences for not just wildlife but the local people too.

We need to preserve our wild areas for future generations.

Without wildlife in all shapes & forms mankind is heading down a slippery slope.

Any kind of mining near a water source could potentially be devastating. Any seepage could contaminate the water making it harmful to all wildlife and humans. People should be stewards of the land and cease to dig, drill, or mine our lands. Thank you. I am merely a concerned citizen.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Ronit Corry

We MUST protect our public lands.

My in-laws live in West Virginia. I have seen the results of mountaintop removal over more than two decades. People need to be retrained for well paying jobs in renewable energy. Those mountaintops are great for windmill farms. For starters though, please support Alternative 4.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

2458

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[your name here]
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I am writing my brief comments to thank OSMRE for its decision to protect areas along the Cumberland Trail by designating them as Lands-Unsuitable-for-Mining. QSMRE choice in the Draft EIS of Alternative #3 is good but not the best choice.

I wish to voice my support of Alternative #4 in the Draft EIS. I am in favor of this Alternative because I feel it would provide the most comprehensive and highest level of protection of the targeted ridges in the Plateau's wildlife management areas and in the Emory River Conservation Area. Alternative #4 in setting aside an additional 9,000 acres would further enhance protection for the wildlife and botanical resources and the priceless water resources. Furthermore we must protect our forests as they are crucial in helping fight against Climate Change. We need to be planting more trees and doing all we can to encourage the health of our remaining forest areas.

Thank you for all your efforts and for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Ruth Gutierrez

There is a reason why they are protected lands. Keep hands off wildlife habitat!

This area is unsuitable for mining. Mining would permanently destroy this pristine wilderness.

As a native Tennessean, born and raised in east Tennessee, I highly value the beauty of the region. As a current resident of Kentucky, I am all too aware of the damage that surface mining does to the land, wildlife, and water of areas that are surface mined. I STRONGLY support the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area TN LUM petition and STRONGLY urge you to approve the petition.

Allowing mining in North Cumberland Tennessee Lands would have a devastating effect on the environment. This should never be allowed.

This harmful removal and destruction of our planet is irreversible and must stop now. No excuses. No delays. Just stop.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Faith Conroy

Say NO to mountain top mining. Leave it in the ground. Retrain coal miners/workers to build, install, and maintain solar & wind equipment.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Faye Soares

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

Please protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area!

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever, protecting them is the right thing to do.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

John W. Massman
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

Cristian Contreras

2477 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nicola Nicolai
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen

As a former resident of the beautiful state of Tennessee, I was pleased to read about the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, including all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with the critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by such activity.

This modified Alternative 4 would provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It would protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Although I prefer no mining at all - Alternative 4 seems to be the best. This IS ALL ABOUT GREED, PURE AND SIMPLE!!

I support Alternative 4 which provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

I am writing to show my support for the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. This would cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

Thank you.

Mrs. M. Grove

This senior citizen lives on the north coast of California. Just in my life time corporate greed had cut down all but two percent of our redwood trees. In the process our rivers and streams were destroyed which also destroyed our fishing. Not many wild salmon left. But what you have allowed in the south with coas mining is nearly beyond imagination - except it is all documented. Where’s the money going from the coal corporations?

We have to preserve our natural resources and protect our land. Don’t people understand that once something is destroyed, it can never be the same again? We have to start putting people and the environment over the short term gain of making money.

Thank you.

Mary Sue Baker

No, no, a thousand times no! Do NOT allow mining in or close to the North Cumberland Wildlife management area! We need desperately to be transitioning from gas, oil and coal to renewable energy. There is no such thing as a safe gas or oil well...just look at the ones that are leaking around the country as I write this. Do NOT jeopardize the health and safety of those who live there, whether they be people or animals or beautiful forests!

Public lands need to be protected and maintained for prosperity. Mining can only contribute to short-term monetary gain, not long-term sustainability or national beauty.

Please consider the long-term environmental impact and avoid mining the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The local wildlife and the people in the region deserve better treatment.


Please do not allow mining of any kind in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. This area must be preserved for the wildlife that call it home. To ravage this habitat in the name of more dirty energy would be short-sighted and tragic.

I stand with NPCA and I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection.

Thank you.

I stand with NPCA and support Alternative 4, designating 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations!
We need all the healthy greenspace we can get. Please keep this area so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy it.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Miller

No more mining for fossil fuels that we do not need.

I support Alternative A which designates 569 miles of Ridgeland from surface coal mining. I also support the modification of Alternative A that limits remining in this area. Thank you for considering my views.

North Cumberland wild life mang.Area lands not suitable for mining

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Rob Switalski
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Juges

Please support Alternative 4. We don't need any more coal. It is a dying industry. The polluting fossil fuel is not needed. We need more wind and solar to help us reduce climate change problems. Mountain top removal mining destroys so much of the beauty of an area. Please leave it untouched.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Strip mining ruins these wilderness areas! Don't allow this to happen in Tennessee!

PLEASE consider halting the destruction of our national heritage and the historic area/s within which this country and the locale populous draw so much inspiration. PLEASE preserve the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

Fossil fuels need to stay in the ground. The few wild areas that are left need to be protected and preserved. The fossil fuel industry needs to shift to alternative energy which will help our planet in regards to climate change.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Brian Ainsley
Dear OSMRE,

I am writing as a Tennessee resident, a conservationist, a bird watcher, a tourist in eastern Tennessee, and above all, a mother who cares about the condition of our state and the planet that my child will inherit.

As a Tennessee resident, I wish to express my admiration and support for the State of Tennessee's request to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement as lands unsuitable for surface mining (LUM). Tennessee has some of the highest aquatic diversity of any inland state in the U.S. - something to be proud of - and as such this petition will go a long way toward protecting the habitat of our native fish and other aquatic species.

As a conservationist, I specifically support a modified version of Alternative 4 in the draft EIS. The modification that is required would ensure that remining will only occur in the LUM area in situations where there is consensus between the State and OSMRE that the site-specific environmental and/or safety benefits of remining outweigh the adverse effects of mining in an area otherwise designated as unsuitable for mining. In addition, due to the importance of riparian zones to both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, all of the ridge line corridors in the petition area that are designated as unsuitable for surface mining should extend to and connect with the stream corridors in the petition area.

As a birdwatcher, I put a high value on the wildlife habitat values of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. I believe the lands within the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the sensitive and special status species that are found in the area, many of which are birds.

As a tourist in eastern Tennessee, I can say that although I have not yet visited the North Cumberland WMA, it is high on my list as a place to visit with my daughter. I can also say without a doubt, if I felt I were to be visiting an area where mountaintop removal mining were occurring, I would definitely avoid the area. Tourism, particularly that related to natural beauty, is Tennessee's #1 industry. It does not make sense to sacrifice a potentially infinite resource for short-term gain.

No mining or any practice, or industry that will harm the environment. Keep all the frackers, miners, loggers, oilers, and anyone else of this ilk out of these lands. Anyone that harms animals and their environment begone. NO to any of the above activities but this is not limited to those but all activities that harm.

stop all mining activity in this area
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Clapp

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Julia Stevenson
I want to support the petition that would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region of North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area in the state of Tennessee. The petition is to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

I stand with NPCA support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Cele Beckner

Our wild places need to remain wild. There is no reason to destroy this.

Mining operations have had a free run/use of Public Lands. Time to stop the desecration and preserve them. We are changing the balance of Mother Nature, and with global warming it is imperative to save what we have left.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. The best thing we can do for our children is to save these mountains!

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sandi Covell
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

MaryAnna Foskett

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

CT Bross
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tr>
<td>2521</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Respectfully, Debra S Floyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2522</td>
<td>Thank you for the chance to comment on this important issue. I support Alternative four as the best of the options, with the provision that any re-mining be carefully scrutinized and only allowed where clear benefit to the environment and general public can be definitively outlined. However, I foresee very little justification to allow re-mining in the petition area. I also believe the area under consideration should qualify as &quot;fragile lands&quot; due to the importance of this habitat to several species of breeding birds in need of management concern, for example, Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers. I firmly believe use of the land as designated in the State of Tennessee's petition for surface mining is generally incompatible with the uses envisioned by the State and the general public. The lands in the petition area are far more valuable for wildlife, hiking and birdwatching than any benefit from mining. As has been said by many others, the land is forever, while the minimum number of mining jobs is temporary. Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2523</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Tara Hottenstein</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Margaret Dodge
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Sincerely,

Linda Maher

Dear Sirs,

I am very concerned about our impact and the numerous consequences we are experiencing due to mining, blasting and drilling of coal, oil, gas and other destructive activities. It is very clear that we are endangering our health, our planet and our future by continuing to use toxic, poisonous fossil fuels.

American has made a commitment in the past and once again in Paris with the Climate talks to reduce our use of fossil fuels and it’s emissions and toxic waste-we must adhere to that and be TRUE LEADERS in GREEN, RENEWABLE energy sources! I say that when we are NOT leading the way-we ARE behind! Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, even China and India are investing in solar, wind and waste-to-energy more than the USA is.

Now that many financial institutes are divesting in fossil fuels and President Obama has banned more permits for mining on public land-it is TIME to change course-re-invent your business models and step INTO the 21st century developing green, sustainable, clean energy options that ARE the future and WILL create millions of good high tech jobs!

Areas that are still untouched must remain untouched and left for the health of our environment and future. These places hold their own value and worth in and by themselves. We should protect them and respect them as they are!!!

PLEASE NO MORE drilling, mining, blasting! Time to keep what's in the ground-IN THE GROUND!!!

Thank-you!

Thousands of scientists have warned us, we see what we are doing to this planet and our health and very own existence! It is ignorant, stupid, short-sighted and immoral, unethical NOT to take heed and change!!!

Again-we are IN the 21st century-we should act like it!!!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I grew up in Georgia and have relatives in Tennessee. I know how destructive surface mining is to surrounding ecosystems and no manner of "protections" will prevent downstream damage from it.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Chris Cannon

We need to protect these areas. This is a must!

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Chris Cannon

We need to protect our wild places and by doing this we protect our environment, allowing mining would be the oppose of this. We know the mining companies are good at polluting the areas they mine and aren't held accountable for their actions. No mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Area!

For some silly reason I was under the impression that the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area was there to support the environment, all living things and the protection of this rare and precious area for future generations. To allow destructive and permanently damaging mining will forever alter this natural sanctuary. Please, do not allow the mines to ruin this area that is beyond value. I live in Southernmost Illinois and I assure you that mine "reclamation" is a big lie. The land is ruined forever. These is no repair from this devastation. Please, make the right choice and protect the lands and wildlife that are entrusted to your protection.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Helen C Curtis

Please support the effort to label the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining and see it for future generations.

I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

We must not allow corporations to undermine our basic trust: The noblest cause... the greatest good. When do they say "we make enough?"

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Ms. Toby Cardoso
Carolina Beach, NC

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Gina Marano

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Karen Kirschling

---

I would kindly ask you to consider extending the comment period for another 180 days on the Unsuitable Lands Petition. Please consider the following two points:

1. The state of Tennessee had no EXISTING lands use plans at the time the Lands Unsuitable Petition was filed, therefore, OSM should reject this petition as invalid.
2. The state of Tennessee fails to show that the 67,000 acres of lands qualify as fragile under the legal definition. In fact, the ONLY site to qualify under the fragile land definition is on a reclaimed surface mine!

Regards

Hunter Hobson
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nancy P. White

We are against ridgeline mining in areas of Anderson, Morgan, Scott and Campbell Counties because of damage to public use through tourism and because of its importance culturally and historically. This area is fragile and economically better used for tourism than mining. We use this area frequently. We recommend Alternative 4 with modification.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Diane Salek

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

We don't need any more coal, it needs to stay in the ground! The future prosperity of residents of this area and the state will be better served by tourism and recreational opportunities.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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<td>2547</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the</td>
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<td>Statement.</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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2548 Given the environmental issues and the economic impact from tourism at stake, I strongly urge you to honor the content and goals of the TNLUM petition to reserve the acres as untouchable by mining and to limit any future mining to previously used mine sites, with appropriate safety and environmental restrictions as stated.

2549 I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

2550 This area is unsuitable for mining.

2551 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, 

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Didier, M.D.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

david j. lafond

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

Jeffery Whitaker
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<th>ID</th>
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<tr>
<td>2554</td>
<td>I am writing to support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.</td>
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<td>2555</td>
<td>I am writing to add my voice to those in favor of Alternative 4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2556</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Kerstin Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2557</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Chris Case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2558</td>
<td>Too much land has already been destroyed in Tennessee for mining, please help save and protect the land that remains.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I think it's time for all regions of Government to cease from leasing its lands for commercial enterprise, and in some instances for denial of public use as well. We have but one environment, and despite mankind's best efforts, it can not be restore. Therefore, I humbly request that you protect this area by denying a lease permit.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. This is a beautiful area that needs your protection from mining.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[your name here]

Ridge lines are very important for wildlife, fauna and flora as well as watershed runoff. Furthermore, it adversely affects property values where the view is tantamount. I am against ridgeline surface mining and logging.

Sincerely,
John H. Kopmeier Jr.

Please stop all mining and drilling operations.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Rodney T. Stark
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I studied Cerulean Warblers for 3.5 years in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area for my Master's research, and I can tell you from personal experience the importance of those ridge tops to that declining songbird, as well as every member of that diverse ecosystem. The Cumberland Mountains are a precious jewel for so many species, including humans!

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Tiffany

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

James Dawson

West Virginia and Kentucky have already been shamefully raped by coal mining, running roughshod over the health of the public and the environment in the pursuit of greed. While I recognize the judicious use of extractive industries, the sad reality is they've been destructive and uncaring. You've the opportunity to NOT be complicit in a crime and, in fact, prevent one. Your fiduciary duty is to the ecosystem!
ID Correspondence
2572 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

~ivan

2573 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Brian Pike

2574 Leave our parks and their animals alone.

2575 Leave our parks and their animals alone.

2576 We must protect our mountains for future generations to enjoy and admire
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Larry K. McCoy

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are Unsuitable for Mining - please do not allow it!

The natural environment left in America is but a small part of what once was that it imperative that we protect what is left for the future. Surface mining is a permanently destructive process of losing what cannot be replaced. Please save the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Lands. They are much more valuable to america's future than what is gained by the mining.

David Williams

I want alternative 4, to protect the headwaters of the South Fork of the National River and Recreation Area. Please!

We must ALL do what is right for the environment, habitat and human health. This is unacceptable in this day in age. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING and put an END to this once and for all. Thank you for your consideration of this critically important matter.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Paul Szymanowski
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nancy Roberts-Moneir

These wildlife areas in Tennessee are vital and should be left free of disturbances like mining.

It would certain be tragic to loose the beauty that Big South Fork provides. They enjoyment that it brings to families all around always give rave reviews for the Rec area.

Please hear our voice!

Have you seen surface mining? It devastates the entire area is dead. 76,000 acres with water land and air; the animals there will die also. I say stop this from happening. Mine the garbage dumps...not pristine lands.

I am also a property owner in Tennessee and this affects the well being of my family.

Keep the area clean pristine.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

This is to inform you that I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: that there be limited- -if any- -re-mining.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate ALL ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering ALL ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: that any re-mining of old sites in the area be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. THESE MOUNTAINS MUST REMAIN FOREVER!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In peace,

Michael Wisniewski

NO MORE DIGGING IN OUR MOTHER EARTH FOR THE SAKE OF CORPORATE-GREED!

Keep out the poisons and keep in the beauty!
Mining corporations have done enough already to destroy the earth in the SW US by blowing off mountaintops! They should no longer be permitted to do it just for profit.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Bianca McArrell

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

Seeing what mining does to destroy the land, which can never recover its original pristine beauty and ecological balance and knowing the damage that mining does to the health of the people in these areas, I strongly support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by that re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amanda Sue Rudisill

It is important to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Thus, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. This would cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by that re-mining.

As a visitor to this area, I feel that these mountains must remain unaltered as long as possible to provide a natural heritage for our children and grandchildren.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2596</td>
<td>No more destroying our planet trying to wring every last mineral, oil, gas, etc. from it. Our world is already paying for this by the climate change and many of our birds, animals, bees, etc. disappearing. Who wants to live on a barren planet?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2597</td>
<td>please help save this planet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2598</td>
<td>I enjoy the fact of being able to go out into the wilderness around my area, and surface mining would hinder that experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2599</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Pat Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2600</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Andra Heide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2601</td>
<td>Please only allow mining in areas where it is absolutely sure they will be safe to the environment and local wildlife.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert Schoenhofer

No mining!
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you.

Paul A. Schmalzer
Earl D. Bandy Jr.
Director-Knoxville Field Office
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Knoxville, TN 37902

Dear Director Bandy:

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy, we are writing in support of the State of Tennessee petition to designate over 67,000 acres within the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for coal mining. We agree with OSMRE that surface coal mining in the area would be incompatible with the 2015 Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan and the 2005 Tennessee Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

We support the OSMRE finding, "Given the record related to the cerulean warbler, Ozark bunchflower, and pale corydalis, the OSMRE has concluded that the petition area provides valuable habitat for fish and wildlife. In addition, this habitat could be significantly damaged by surface coal mining operations, thus qualifying it as fragile lands. (Chapter 2, page 33) We strongly agree that this area qualifies as fragile lands because surface coal mining, even when properly permitted and current reclamation methods used, would significantly damage wildlife habitat and impact forest-dependent birds such as Cerulean Warbler.

American Bird Conservancy supports a modified version of Alternative 4 that would designate 569 miles of ridgeline covering 76,133 acres plus connect the descending ridgeline corridors all the way to the stream corridors. In addition, limitations must be put in place to ensure that remining is only employed in the designated area where both the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the benefit of environmental remediation justifies the sites exclusion from the area.

American Bird Conservancy strongly supports the petitioner and supporting intervenors statements about the importance of this area for many species of birds, and the likely negative impacts coal development

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

Although I currently live in GA, we've lived in TN in the Nashville area a couple times and traveled all over the beautiful state. It is one of the prettiest in the country. We're headed to the Gatlinburg area along with family from NC, VA, KY and TN because of the beauty of the TN mountains! As such, I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Leigh Rothman
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Sarah Johnson and family

The wild lands of America, along with the myriad groupings of wildlife, are fast disappearing and we must remain vigilant and eager to maintain the ever-decreasing lands that will yet sustain and protect the divergent types of small and mega animals that inhabit these amazing plots of land that offer all of the opportunity to view and admire the diversity of life. These lands should no longer be used to ever-continue the loss of some of our lands which remain home to those areas that so many of us cherish and want our children and those yet to be born to see and love the beauty and diversity of these areas. Let's not move forward in any way that diminishes or destroys these areas.

Some things once destroyed can never be fully restored and have more long term benefit than short term money.
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Alan Lish
ID Correspondence

2619  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

D Bello

2620  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

2621  Let's try "contributing" to this Earth, instead of Taking From it...

This Earth is here to help us…and what would the possibilities be, if we actually "contribute" to our Mother...this Earth.

2622  We have strip mined other pristine ares into ugly mounds of rubble suitable for nothing else except rat infested dumps. If we keep doing this we will run out of areas that we can enjoy as they are, untouched by man's destructive propensities.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the state of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to, and connecting with, stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the state of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation- and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Penny Johansen

---

2624 I support Alternative Four, with the change that re-mining should be strictly limited and regulated.

2625 Skyline Drive is not as scenic as it would seem because of clear-cutting. All the new growth looks the same. No diversity. Northeastern PA is woody, but just doesn't look like a thriving forest area because of mining. The US is not in a depression. We can afford to mine without harming the environment.

2626 Mining can be done just anywhere.

2627 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I am writing in support of the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 albeit with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the state of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by such land use.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future.

In past years, my family and I were fortunate enough to have much enjoyed the recreational opportunities and serene, natural splendor of this area and, thus, continue to strongly believe these beautiful mountains can and should be forever protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Penny Johansen

---

2628 North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Lands Unsuitable for Mining. Please preserve.

2629 Please designate the Big Fork area as unsuitable for mining. Thank you.

2630 I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[your name here]

Todd Patton
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 2633| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
M DuPree |
| 2634| Please, do not allow coal mining in this sensitive environmental area. These lands are unsuitable for mining. Not compatible with the wildlife management. Also, coal is increasing global warming; which in turn creates colder, harder winters, severe hurricanes, tornado's. Also, with greatly decreasing ground water for drinking for people and wildlife living in this area and will need drinking water. Dirty Coal is just greedy, and don't care what they destroy, to achieve greater wealth. |
| 2635| I support alternative 4. Our national treasure and wild places are far more precious than the coal buried beneath them. Our way forward as a species lay not in destroying and exploiting this planet, but in learning to live sustainably on it. |
| 2636| I oppose mining in any form on national park land or on any protected habitat. |
| 2637| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,  
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
Sincerely,  
Katherine Robertson |
<p>| 2638| Please do not allow any mining in this beautiful and vital area. |
| 2639| We have too many people so why wouldn't we save what's left of our wildlife and open lands! |
| 2640| North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands is unsuitable for mining. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2641 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Swann |

| 2642 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**

My sister lives in Tennessee and she has brought this issue to my attention.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,  
Karen M. Swann |

| 2643 | The wild lands in state parks MUST stay that way. These are public lands- NOT land that big companies can take away from US to spoil and make a profit for THEMSELVES. These lands are important for all wild fauna and flora AND for ALL Americans and foreign visitors to enjoy. Haven't these big companies DESTROYED enough of our beautiful country???
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jordann Wine

Surface mining is very destructive. It profits a few and creates immense damage.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Neil Bleifeld

North Cumberland wildlife management should stop all Mining in Tennessee lands so all wildlife has a place to live.

Remining is just as bad as mining. Having tested overburden and seen first hand mining companies not treat overburden as recommended, mining should be discouraged. There are NEVER enough volunteers to maintain the liming stations to keep water safe for fish and other water life. Please do not allow remining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The watershed will be critically damaged.

The continued spoiling of the inspiring regions of our country must stop. The first step is to stop trying to get at fossil fuels in places that are unsuited for the mining processes in all their forms. A prime example of this is the prospect of mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Area. A look at how the continued destruction of beautiful natural areas is the mountain-top removal system used in West Virginia. You surely don't want to look like that. Thank you for looking at my position on the subject.

Our "natural" and "wild " areas are quickly disappearing to resorts, subdivisions,and private estates.We need to protect what is left.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2651 | I support Option 4 and have concerns that mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area would undermine the intended use of the land, would cause grave environmental damage, and would profit a few while causing huge losses to the many. ☐  
  Thank you for considering my concerns. |
| 2652 | Surface mining really means mountaintop removal and it has been pretty ugly in West Virginia, do not allow it in Tennessee |
| 2653 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, ☐  
  I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. ☐  
  I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. ☐  
  This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. ☐  
  Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. ☐  
  Sincerely, Stephanie Gaspar |
| 2654 | Please protect these lands. |
| 2655 | I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. ☐  
  This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. ☐  
  ☐  
  I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- -that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. ☐  
  Thank you for considering my comments. ☐  
  Sincerely, James L. Boone |
| 2656 | It is time for us to protect our environment. It costs less than trying to repair the damage. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Vince Rubino

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Pamela Kjono

These forests are for the public, NOT special interest groups! Mining companies have already destroyed enough land! This land os for us, keep the out! Protect the forest!!

We need to expedite the process of rendering fossil fuels obsolete.

Protect your beautiful, valuable mountains. Choose plan #4.
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael Travis
I'm writing in support of the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, David A. Woolsey

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, David A. Woolsey

No surface mining at Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Mark Bloch
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Thomas Klages

Please enact Alternative 4

I stand with NPCA by supporting Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Thank you.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Victor Escobar
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; including every ridgeline extending to and connecting with all the stream corridors.

Also, I strongly support Alternative 4 with one change: any re-mining at old sites should be allowed ONLY where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh any damage caused! In my opinion, Alternative 4 with this modification will best protect the water quality AND the wildlife it sustains.

This protection will allow a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy. We should ensure that this beautiful area is protected forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Chase Martin

Please protect our wilderness areas from pollution and destruction. We need to move away from reliance on coal and other fossil fuels.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Ann Pelzer
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Christy Anderson

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Thank you, Walter Kuciej

We need to get off coal, the dirtiest most greenhouse gas polluting source of energy. Totally unacceptable to mine coal from public lands when we're trying to address climate change and 2015 was the hottest year on record.

In the 1990s I was working on my Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee/Knoxville and was involved with environmental issues through SOCM (Save Our Cumberland Mountains), through Highlander Center, and through my research in the coal fields; community health centers. I was also teaching coal miners' wives in Mountains Women Exchange in Jellico, TN. I thoroughly understood the threats to the mountains, the communities, to the environment. Those threats continue. Now I'm a college professor teaching Environmental Injustice and I'm still concerned about the mountains and people I left behind. Please protect the mountains, the wildlife, the communities from mountaintop mining. Please remove these lands from this threat. Thank you.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Kim McClure

Under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), a member of the public may petition a state regulatory authority to declare areas not otherwise precluded from coal mining operations as "lands unsuitable for mining" (LUM). Such a designation would mean that no new surface coal mining permits could be issued within the designated area.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gail C. Richardson

This area is unsuitable for mining. No one wants to hike or paddle the river in polluted waters due to mining. No animals should be drinking polluted mining water.

We do not need mining any longer if we fund on a reasonable basis alternative energy options. Please do not allow this.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

It use to be lands were protected and not greedily exploited by the highest bidder to the detriment of society. Please protect this land.

Save the Mountains!

I stand with the NPCA in supporting the Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

This beautiful area is not only our heritage, it also is home to many magnificent wild creatures and beautiful vegetation. To open it to mining would destroy it for generations. Please protect this area against mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Lauren Scopaz

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jenna Adams

Please save our parks for the future

WE DO NOT WANT ANYMORE MINING IN THE BEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!!! FIND SOME OTHER WAY TO HELP US FOR HEATING AND LIGHTS!!!

These beautiful headlands can never be replaced once they are gone. We do not need mining operations here as much as we need to protect this land.
My family and I (five of us) are writing to voice our support for Alternative 4—-with the modification that there is no re-mining. Thank you for your time and consideration of our comment herein.

Sincerely,
The Kelly Family: Lisa Ann Chad George Geoffrey and Tristan

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Cynthia J. Stoner

I support efforts to closely monitor any mining on Tennessee lands, North Cumberland area. This will ensure protections for the land and people of Tennessee.

I support alternative 4. Please ensure that re-mining is only done in cases where benefits outweigh harm.

As an outdoor enthusiast and environmentalist, I believe that Tennessee should designate 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations. Re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process.

Please protect our lands and natural habitats.

Thank you for reading my comments.
Gail Needham
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2709</td>
<td>We need to restrain commercial efforts to frack and mine anywhere near pristine streams, rivers and headwaters. Non-renewable fuels will not sustain us much longer. We need to support a change to renewable and non-polluting energy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2710</td>
<td>Climate change is building at an ever faster rate. We have waited too long already and our country is reaping the rewards of ignoring Mother Nature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2711</td>
<td>Changing to non-fossil fuels will provide new jobs everywhere across our great nation. Let’s start with this river and take the lead to support a better future for our citizens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2712</td>
<td>stop killing this planet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2713</td>
<td>Protect our lands for all of us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2714</td>
<td>Please start to consider future generation in these matters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2715</td>
<td>It’s easy to destroy an ecosystem, but always hard and usually impossible to re-create it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2716</td>
<td>Regards,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2717</td>
<td>Hon. Rev. James Steedman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2718</td>
<td>This land needs to be preserved for future generations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2719</td>
<td>Once the wilderness is gone, human life will be forever diminished.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2720</td>
<td>Don’t let this mining chip away at this area of wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2721</td>
<td>It is time to preserve our wildlife for all Americans instead of letting industry take control over it. Please preserve the Big South Fork National River and Recreational area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2722</td>
<td>Please protect this park for future generations to enjoy!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2723</td>
<td>I stand with NPCA by supporting Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- -that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2724</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2725</td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2726</td>
<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2727</td>
<td>This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2728</td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2729</td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2730</td>
<td>Denee Scribner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2731</td>
<td>I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2732</td>
<td>We have to completely switch to renewable energy - our entire Earth depends on this. No more, mining, digging, cutting trees, when there are other ways to power the World.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I am counting on your leadership.

The beauty of these areas need protection both for the wildlife that lives there, but also for the water resources that everyone depends upon. Putting these resources in danger of pollutants is irresponsible.

This area of land should be maintained and preserved as an area for the public, without disruption due to mining. There are other areas that could be used for mining, however, surface mining should not be aloud anywhere. I am a retired plant pathologist/toxicologist from Oak Ridge National Laboratory. It is in my professional opinion, that mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Area would be detrimental to the citizens, wildlife and people who use this area.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Curtis Kuppler

once mined in this fashion the future is bleak. reclamation is a bad joke.

I SUPPORT Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining!!!!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mariah Martinez

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer:

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, including all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. These mountain treasures need to be preserved rather than polluted. We no longer need more coal; rather we need new forms of clean energy.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Susan Anderson

we must take care of our national forests ..... preserve them all !.....
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Caralla

Reconsider! Alternative 4, BUT limit re-mining!

Alternative 4 designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

No mining in North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Caralla
It is deplorable to think that the Cumberland Mountains—or any mountains—could be mined via the mountaintop removal coal mining process. This option decimates the environment and scenery, ruins streams and drinking water, harms plants and animals, and makes life for humans in the area intolerable. The world needs to move away from fossil-fuel dependency. It is killing us, making the air we breathe unhealthy and certainly contributing to the climate change that is evident all over the globe.

Mining is one of the most destructive activities of our wilderness. I encourage the decision makers to reconsider allowing mining activities in sensitive habitats.

Mountains need to be left alone; they are great to look at and take pictures of and they add a lot to the scenery when traveling through different states.

It seems this modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

And, this seems to be invaluable!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sydney Wright

Please protect the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, with all its beauty and natural resources, from the destruction of coal mining.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area must be protected, not destroyed. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert & Virginia Ilardi
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robin Foster

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Holly McDonough

---

I am asking that you choose Alternative 4, which would not allow any new mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area except in those very few cases where the environmental benefits would outweigh any environmental damage brought about by the new mining. If it were an option, I personally would greatly prefer to see that this area were protected either as a wilderness area or even as a national park with wilderness protection embedded in it. As it is, that option is not available at the present time, so I will opt for Alternative 4 which will at least stop any new mining except in what will, hopefully, be in those very few exceptions as listed above. This area needs to be protected for the benefits of hikers and canoers and kayakers and for those who wish to enjoy observing the forests, birds, wildlife, etc. present in the area. Thank you for reading my comments and for the consideration of my views.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Sharon M. Fetter

We must protect this valued piece of land in its natural habitat.

Please use wise stewardship of OUR lands.

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands ARE Unsuitable for Mining! Do not allow the destruction of our beautiful land for profit!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[Your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,
Nathan Wilson

---

No more mining!

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Clark

---

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining. Just do the right thing and don't lose your membership cards to the human race.
Correspondence

LUM Petition Administrative Officer
Office of Surface Mining and Enforcement (OSM)
Knoxville Field Office
710 Locust Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

RE: Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

To Whom It May Concern:

The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee is writing to express its support for the State of Tennessee's request to designate all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area as lands unsuitable for mining, including those extending and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. We agree with the State's intention of identifying those ridgelines as lands unsuitable in order to achieve State land management objectives to protect important ecological systems and other resource values enjoyed by the citizens of Tennessee and visitors to our state. We also recognize the vast benefits of using LiDAR to more accurately identify where ridgelines exist.

Our organization has partnered with our Tennessee state agency partners, private businesses, local citizens and landowners to protect our natural heritage in the Cumberland Mountain region for decades. We work with our partners to identify the valuable natural resource and recreation lands, especially those with high value ecological systems for native species and habitats. Recently, The Nature Conservancy assisted the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) in completing the federally mandated 10-year Comprehensive Update to the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), which was originally submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2005 and serves as a reference for this LUM petition. This science-based, collaborative plan identifies conservation priorities across the state and focuses on the most pressing problems facing the long term health of Tennessee's nature.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Samuel Matthews

Please keep the mountains pure. I love to ride the roads in the parks with our motor home. Mining is an ugly site. It takes away the beauty and serenity of the science beauty.

Please leave the mountains for our future and children's future.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2759</td>
<td>I want to voice my support for the State of Tennessee's request to designate all the ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area as off-limits to strip mining. That means all the ridgelines that connect to stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I want to voice my support for &quot;Alternative 4,&quot; as long as it is modified to permit re-mining of old mining areas only if the State of Tennessee and OSMRE can agree that the re-mining won't cause more damage to the area's environment, or jeopardize the safety of the humans and other animals that use the site and the areas downstream.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recreation and tourism are important economic activities in any rural area, and the life and wellbeing of the local populations depend on these activities not being disrupted by the toxic effects of surface mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rose Bohmann                                                                                                                                   (relative of numerous Tennesseans, and frequent visitor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2760</td>
<td>We are stewards of our planet. If we do not take the steps that allows the homeostasis of our ecosystem, we will be the species that does not survive. For the sake of our descendents this is the time to prevent further warming of our planet by leaving fossil fuels in the ground, and in particular on fragile mountain tops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2761</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On most of trips around the US, our family visits National Parks having just visited Pt Reyes in 2015 and a planned a trip to Death Valley in the coming weeks. National parks are a both a way of protecting our precious lands for generations to enjoy and of bringing sustainable employment to an area around lands that serve as their way of life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sincerely,                                                                                                                                   Katherine Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perry Hall, MD 21128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2762  Save the mountains. Stop "mountain top" removal.

2763  Mining is extremely toxic to the environment and a hazard to the health of humans and wildlife.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Kendra Sykes
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Regards,

Susan Deth

Please recommend alternative 4 because it would protect more miles of mountaintops
Parks can not last without our protection. Please take notice of this since this is important to everyone.

The wildlife should not be killed because some idiot wants money.

Fracking, mountaintop removal, ocean drilling: they all have one thing in common: they are destroying our planet. We have installed solar panels that have provided ALL our electricity (including charging my plug-in hybrid vehicles -US made, of course). If we can do that in Michigan, then anyone in this country can do it.

LEAVE IT IN THE GROUND!

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Lands are not suitable for mining.

Please leave the Cumberland wildlife wilderness area in Tennessee free of any mining. Please leave it as it was intended to be, wild and free of human damage. Let it remain pristine and let it be there for future generation. Leave it to the animals that call it home. Thankyou for considering my thoughts.

There is always more money in tourism dollars than in destroying pristine ecosystems.

Protect all wild lands and animals.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Knoxville Field Office, 710 Locust Street
Knoxville, TN 37902
865-545-4103X149
TNLUM@osmre.gov

Due January 25, 2016

RE: Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition

To LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club supports protecting all of the ridgelines in the petition area extending to and connecting with the stream corridors, which is consistent with the original intent of the State of Tennessee's 2010 petition.

The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club (SMHC) has over 600 members in East Tennessee, and is one of the largest and most active outdoor recreation and conservation groups in the area. Our organization sponsors day trips and overnight outings each year on the Cumberland Trail and has explored the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement since it was opened to the public in 2007. In addition to club activities, our members make many visits on their own to hike, backpack, and mountain bike in these areas. The Smoky Mountains Hiking Club has been active in regional conservation issues since its founding in 1924. Information about our organization can be found at www.smhclub.org.

Clearly the future of the Cumberland Mountains is moving towards sustainable activities such as recreation and tourism that will provide more jobs and economic benefits to the area than will the dying coal industry. Our members appreciate the scenic values of the more intact areas within the Cumberlands and continue to enjoy the recreation opportunities the area offers. Protecting the ridges while allowing resource extraction in the lower elevations, is a reasonable compromise that allows mining to continue while preserving the state's investment in recreation.
I support protecting all of the ridgelines in the petition area extending to and connecting with the stream corridors, which is consistent with the original intent of the State of Tennessee's 2010 petition.

I have been hiking in the affected area for 10 years and value the Cumberland Mountains for their recreational opportunities and the beauty of the unmined areas in these mountains.

Clearly the future of the Cumberland Mountains is moving towards sustainable activities such as recreation and tourism that will provide more jobs and economic benefits to the area than will the dying coal industry. I appreciate the scenic values of the more intact areas within the Cumberlands and continue to enjoy the recreation opportunities the area offers. Protecting the ridges while allowing resource extraction in the lower elevations, is a reasonable compromise that allows mining to continue while preserving the state's investment in recreation.

I feel that OSMRE's Alternative 3, the preferred alternative in the Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement (PED/EIS) document is flawed in that remining of coal seams would be allowed on too many of the ridgelines in the petition area. We recognize that reclamation after remining is a viable method of correcting existing environmental hazards. However, Alternative C does not distinguish between mined areas that are hazards and mined areas that have been stabilized or reclaimed and thus should not be further disturbed. According to the PED/EIS 183 to 219 miles of ridgeline would be exempt under remining. Since existing permitted mining operations cannot be designated unsuitable, allowing any remining and its associated access and haul roads, simply leaves too much of the Cumberlands at risk for future mining.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

Jean Gauger

We need to quit mining for energy, let's go more sustainable.

Please take action in protecting our magnificent, precious mountains, landmark of our country.

Best regards

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Rea Ann Loomis

Let's not let the South Fork become another casualty of indiscriminate industrialization.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2783</td>
<td>I urge you to recognize that North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are unsuitable for mining!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2784 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

D. Foster

| 2785 | I wholeheartedly urge you to ban mountaintop removal mining in Tennessee and across the US. The short-term "benefit" of obtaining climate-threatening dirty energy pales in comparison to the damage to our lungs, our wildlife habitat, our important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems, and ultimately to the climate which sustains all life on the planet. Regulate wisely, not just for today, but for generations - and aeons - to come. |
| 2786 | We don't need to rip apart mountains to supply coal. We need to be moving away from it toward renewable energy resources. Alternative 4 is supported by NPCA and that's good enough for me. |
| 2787 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Messer

| 2788 | ** lets stop raping our public lands** |
| 2789 | No body is making any new mountains. We MUST stop destroying our natural heritage. The future for our great, great grand children should take precedence over the greed of a few. |

Janeth McKendrick

Franklin, Tennessee
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Joanne Lowery

This area is still pristine. Our country is being eroded by big energy.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kunze
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Dillman

I grew up on the east coast and am familiar with the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and am of the opinion that it is unsuitable for mining.
2800 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

As someone who grew up spending my summers in eastern Tennessee, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[your name here]

2801 I used to have a poster on my wall that said can't kill the spirit she's like a mountain. And I saw a mountain range where a whole mountain was gone. This is too much grief to bear.

2802 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I'm from North Carolina, and now live in Colorado, where the detrimental impacts of mining continue to be felt. The Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area is an important national asset that deserves protection.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Austin Pick

2803 Don't let this beautiful paradise become another West Virginia!

2804 Please stop destroying our earth. It's all we have.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. Please protect the future of these mountains and our children. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Susan B. O'Connor

Please protect the beautiful ranges and restrict mining on ridgelines on public lands in Anderson, Campbell, Scott and Morgan counties. This is land managed for multi-use in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. Prohibit New surface mining for 600 feet on either side of the ridgelines include the approximately 500 miles of ridges.

This is a great opportunity to preserve the land, water and wildlife of Tennessee, and to support the state's thriving tourism industry.

Please do not mine, excavate, drill, strip, dam, or otherwise to any federal, state, or government land of any type. It is not needed by any means, and the desire to profit from these lands is just plain greed. There are hardly any places left on this planet that still in their natural state (for the most part); they need to be left alone. Do we really have to exploit every square inch of this planet? Do we have to destroy species for dollars? Dollars that aren't needed? Wanted, yes; needed, no. It's selfish, and truly horrible. Even setting climate change aside, we need to keep some areas pristine, if for no other reason than to learn from them, if we can't find it in our hearts to care enough about animals to let them have a place to live.

We need to protect treasures such as this

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Linda Seymour
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2810</td>
<td>STOP MESSING WITH MOTHER NATURE!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2812</td>
<td>All our beautiful lands, places, wildlife, oceans, forests, Etc. deserve our respecting &amp; protecting &amp; to be here as much as we do &amp; all serve a purpose &amp; are a big part of there eco-system &amp; we need to stop destroying everything especially for human greed, selfishness, stupidity, ignorance, &amp; to make a profit Etc. &amp; very sadly extinction is Forever &amp; climate change is very real &amp; a serious issue we are facing &amp; we only have one planet Earth so it's up to us to do all we can to protect it thank you?!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2813</td>
<td>I love the Big South Fork Area. I oppose anything that would or potentially would harm or degrade it in any way. Mining is the worst possible scenario. All you need to do is look at Colorado and the Animis River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2814</td>
<td>Please do not mine in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2815</td>
<td>LUM Petition Administrative Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RE: North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. ONLY modified Alternative 4 should be written into the DEIS. But please only with this critical modification: ANY RE-MINING of old sites in the area should BE ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. Please protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River &amp; Recreation Area! Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flagstaff, AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2816</td>
<td>Please no more mining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2817</td>
<td>Do not mine here or anywhere else, stop all mining now and preserve our environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2818</td>
<td>The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are unsuitable for Mining. Please protect these wildlife lands!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2819</td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with steam corridors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. We have responsibility to future generations to protect our environment, not destroy it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thank-you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statemtn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cordially,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michelle Sheridan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2820</td>
<td>It would be very sad if we didn't have this beautiful countryside to enjoy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Karen Wutzke

No mining in our national forests

I write to ask you to ban Ridgetop Coal Mining in the North Cumberlands! Please follow Alternative 4 because it would protect more miles of mountaintops and most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. Please modify Alternative 4 to state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

Headwater sources are essential to downstream viability. Ridgetline mining in the petitioned area will affect the headwaters of the Big South Fork Park streams. Their protection through modified Alternative 4 would benefit the park's water resources. Additionally, the North Cumberland Mountains contain natural treasures such as 40' tall waterfalls, mountain tops over 3,000', and headwater streams. The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands."

Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. Re-mining should be the exception rather than the rule. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area for the economic future of the region. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

Do not destroy God's earth.
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Charles and Barbara Mistele

Please, do not allow mining in North Cumberland.

Sincerely,

sylviane Mahaux

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Justin Chernow, Ph.D.
January 23, 2016

Earl D. Bandy, Jr., Field Office Director
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
John J. Duncan Federal Building 710 Locust Street, Second Floor
Knoxville, TN  37902

Subject:  North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining

Dear Mr. Bandy:

I am writing to you on behalf of over 1,100 members of the Coalition to Protect Americas National Parks (Coalition). Our membership is composed entirely of retired, former, or current salaried employees of the National Park Service (NPS). As a group we collectively represent more than 30,000 years of national park management experience. The Coalition studies, educates, speaks, and acts for the preservation of Americas National Park System.

The purpose of this letter is to submit comments on the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft Petition Evaluation Document/ Environmental Impact Statement, OSM-EIS-37 (draft PED/EIS) prepared by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). The draft PED/EIS evaluates the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA) and Emory River Tracts Conservation Easement (ERTCE) as it pertains to the Petition for Lands Unsuitable for Coal Mining filed by the State of Tennessee (State) on September 30, 2010. The State petitioned OSMRE to designate as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations 505 miles of ridgelines with a 1,200-foot corridor (600 feet on both sides of the ridge top). The petition area encompasses approximately 67,326 acres including much of the ridgeline areas found within NCWMA and ERTCE.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

PG Rossetti
Shortly after I bought my home here in 1973, I realized that Morgan County's greatest potential lay in its scenic beauty. No other county can boast access to two National Parks, two State Parks, two State Forests and two State Wildlife Management Areas and a terrain that is still more than 75% wooded. I strongly support Alternative #3 of the state's LUM petition as the best compromise between public need and private property rights.

After reading up on the LUMP and attending one of the public hearings last week, we are writing to urge approval of the State's request for protection of ridgetops from mountaintop mining. We strongly prefer Alternative 4, however, as it better protects streams and biological habitat. The LUMP has been studied thoroughly for several years, it seems, and we are convinced that its reasoning is correct regarding the future for ecotourism compared to the future for surface mining. Thank you for this opportunity to express our support.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Frank Jahn

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Richard J Stuckey
Chicago, IL
Dear Sirs:

I support the State of Tennessee's 2010 petition to ban surface mining in the North Cumberland Mountain Wildlife Conservation Area and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. Please ban ridgetop coal mining within these critically important and environmentally endangered lands. More specifically, I support and recommend Alternative 4 of this petition with the proviso that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the state and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

As an avid hiker, fisherman, outdoors sportsman and amateur photographer on the Cumberland Trail, Frozen Head State Park, The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and nearby Wildlife Management Areas, along with being a private landowner of agricultural land, I strongly value the use of strict environmental safeguards to protect our most precious assets of land and water resources, in addition to the unparalleled scenic beauty of these ridgelines and ridgetops and the tributaries and watersheds that are negatively affected by surface mining activities.

Already, rare and special-status aquatic species have declined in these areas due to previous mining operations. We must stop destroying our environment by increasing conservational practices. Therefore, I call upon you to work with the State of Tennessee to accomplish the goals that affect all of us.

Thank you.

Willie R. Beaty

Time to Invest in renewables Solar Wind Create healthy jobs this is 2016 not the stone age.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Tom Guobis

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Julie Amato

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Ruth Clark
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I have lived in Illinois my entire life. One of my first vacations with my family out of Illinois was to Tennessee, including the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. This is a beautiful area that needs to be protected.

Sincerely,
Carol Weger

Stop tearing up/destroying our earth!

We need to save the planet for its sake and ours!

To: The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

From: Richard and Miranda Menzies, PO Box 1130, Eden, UT 84310

My wife and I lived for almost 30 years in Cincinnati before retiring to the mountains of Utah. There were a group of us (~10 families and children), who every year would come down to the Upper Cumberland mountains to camp and hike and enjoy the beauty of your countryside. We heard with distress from friends, who still travel down to camp there, of the various proposals concerning strip mining in the area. Consequently, we are writing in support of the petition to designate 76,000 acres and 569 miles of ridgelines in the Upper Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. In particular, option 4 seems to be the best of the suggestions proposed.

Both my wife and I, being metallurgical engineers by training, understand the importance of mining to our economy. However, my wife also spent 30 years of her career in environmental remediation of Superfund sites, including several surface mines, so we are also acutely aware of the environmental damage that results from such mining. Coal is a material of which we have a relative abundance and is being replaced by cleaning burning fuels / renewables that have much less impact on the environment. There is no current need to further increase the supply. Furthermore, the Upper Cumberland mountains are situated within a ~5 hour drive from many high population centers such as Cincinnati, Atlanta, Lexington, Louisville, Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga etc. etc. providing wonderful scenic country for these tourists to enjoy. If marred by strip mining I doubt many people will come and spend their tourist dollars in the area.

I hope you will not "Kill the Golden Goose" (ie the natural beauty of your land) that will provide you income for years to come and we urge the adoption of option 4 of the petition.

Sincerely,
Richard and Miranda Menzies

Mining is a short term goal with long term consequences & isn't worthwhile.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2845</td>
<td>We are all mandated to save our parks, natural resources &amp; all species of life on planet Earth. Man is the only invasive species on Earth. Do not let greed push you to the limit. Save our natural areas. Defend nature. It cannot defend itself.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2846</td>
<td>Protect our forests and rivers from pollution, toxic waste; we want pure air and land and water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. Although I do not live in Tennessee, as an American who wants to see all our natural beauty preserved in all our United States, I am concerned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These beautiful mountains of Tennessee can and should be forever beautiful and unscarred by mining, or further mining. Although I have not yet personally been in the Big South Fork NRRA or the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, I dream of the day I can have traveled and enjoyed the natural beauties of all of the lower 48 including Tennessee (so far I have only visited 10 states on vacations) and I would want to see your Tennessee mountains there pristine --not destroyed for mining. Even if I never get the opportunity to visit, just knowing that the mountains and wildlife are protected for all is the most important thing. I believe most Americans feel the same --they want all nature and wildlife protected and preserved, not exploited --even if they never personally see all the wonders that are in our great country.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Also, for all those citizens of Tennessee and for all Americans who value preserving nature and wildlife and water quality, and for those who live in the North Cumberland area, whose health could or would seriously be impacted by mining, and for the sake of the wildlife that would be affected, I support the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2848</td>
<td>The appalachian mountains are the oldest, most visited and hiked mountains, serving as watershed to so many states. Without any doubt, these should be classified as LUM, and should be protected from minimibg, especially mountain top removal mining. If there is ANY real understanding if exponential growth, it is obvious that NO amount of possible coal resources are worth the damage and destruction of the mountain ecology and streams themselves. The rate of energy consumption has inreased to the point that use will be rapid and not worth the damage, only to make short term profit from the exemption of reponsibility for reclamation and clean-up. It is short-sighted, sort-term, non-effective action to mine this area, and a a great cost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2849</td>
<td>The appalachian mountains are the oldest, most visited and hiked mountains, serving as watershed to so many states. Without any doubt, these should be classified as LUM, and should be protected from minimibg, especially mountain top removal mining. If there is ANY real understanding if exponential growth, it is obvious that NO amount of possible coal resources are worth the damage and destruction of the mountain ecology and streams themselves. The rate of energy consumption has inreased to the point that use will be rapid and not worth the damage, only to make short term profit from the exemption of reponsibility for reclamation and clean-up. It is short-sighted, sort-term, non-effective action to mine this area, and a a great cost.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Allan Campbell

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area
Tennessee Lands are Unsuitable for Mining. They are best suited to sustain Wildlife.

Use them for the purpose they were intended ONLY.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely, Alisa A
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Fernando Pueblo

Preserve this area from mining for the benefit of future generations.

I wholeheartedly agree with the State of Tennessee's statement that surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans in the Big South Fork area. I served on a team of National Park Service planners to inspect the Big South Fork for designation as a unit of the national park system. It definitely deserves continued protection from activities destructive to the purpose for which it has been set aside.

I further agree that surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

My current state of residence, Montana, contains many examples of the long term costs of coal and other mineral extraction. I don't recommend coal extraction anywhere today, because of its well-documented role in contributing to global climate change, which has immense externalized costs to our civilization and our Earth's ecosystems.

Keep the coal in the ground.

you need to treat the land better
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jolie Misek

Dear Sir/Ma'am:

I am writing in regards to the petition to ban Ridgetop Coal Mining in the North Cumberlands. I would like to express my support for Alternative 4, with one important modification, which is that re-mining be limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, it is determined that safety and/or environmental benefits outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

It is imperative that we preserve and protect these critically important and dwindling ridge top habitats for the benefit of forest-dependent birds, specifically the Cerulean Warbler: a species of concern. As I'm sure you are aware, these ridge tops are essential for breeding habitat for this species along with many others. In addition to protecting habitat, banning ridge top coal mining preserves areas for users like myself who appreciate the wild unspoiled places in Tennessee as one of the greatest treasures of our state. Additionally, the majority of the ridgelines to be designated are in the headwaters of the Big South Fork and restricted mining would benefit the park’s water resources and many declining aquatic species. The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because even with compliance with all permitting requirements and modern methods of reclamation, a mature forest can't be replaced in a biologically relevant period of time. Re-mining should only be allowed where genuine environmental problems exist. There must be consensus between the State and OSMRE before any remining permit can be approved. Recreation and tourism are a higher and better use of this area, and for the economic future of the region. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent study supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

Thank you very much for listening to my concerns and I trust you will make the proper decisions to protect the unreplaceable treasures of the North Cumberlands.

Sincerely,

Jim Arnett
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I support Alternative 4 while also limiting re-mining/

There are alternatives to what you are doing that will protect our environment, our clean water and our clean air resources. Be an industry leader on the right side of these issues. There is plenty of opportunity to make money doing the right thing.

I am writing to support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement--that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Teddy Roosevelt said "Don't let greedy men with selfish interests skin your country of its riches, its beauty or its romance. That should still be our goal.

All parks and natural areas are the heritage of the American people and need to be protected as areas to refresh our souls. Are you to stupid to realize that? You can't breathe money!

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft. This area needs to be protected from the effects of mining. Show you value the environment and health of the people by preventing environmental degradation in this beautiful area.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Bennett

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Linda Catlin
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sweetland

---

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Vicky Matsui
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<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2870</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
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<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Frederick Schmidt</td>
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<td>2871</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
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<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Janet Rauscher</td>
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<tr>
<td>2872</td>
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<tr>
<td>2873</td>
<td>Stop destroying our environment. It is as simple as that.</td>
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</table>
I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for mining.

I further support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

This area is an invaluable resource for recreation and should be preserved.

Thank you for considering my comments.

January 23, 2016,

Dear Good People:

I implore you to protect all the National Parks totally, i.e., PERMANENTLY prohibit grazing, mining and/or lumbering anywhere in any of the national parks.

Thank you.

Alex Stavis,
(a concerned citizen)

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Schlatter

Tennessee is perfect, just the way it is! Leave it alone, please!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

D. Shapiro

Please approve the state of Tennessee’s request to designate all the ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.
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| 2881 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
Sincerely,
M. Wayne Wilson |
| 2882 | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.
THANK YOU for your attention to this!
Sincerely, Kathleen Hunt |
| 2883 | **Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,**
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.
I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.
This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Moya Mosher

Please protect this valuable public resource and natural habitat from mining.

keep the carbon in the ground

Dear LUM petition administrative officer,

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Aina

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area is unsuitable for Mining.

I would hope that you would do whatever is in your power to restrict surface mining in the North Cumberland area. When we return to our state for visiting family and recreation, the last thing we want to see is its beauty torn up! Honor this land and its most precious resource of natural beauty that brings so many home. Surely tourism is more profitable in the long run than mining. What will you have left if you tear up this land and the tourists don't return? Especially now that we prefer cleaner energy anyway. Leave our mountains alone!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Karen Linarez

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

Destroying this wildlife management area will permanently change that land. Mining companies are notoriously famous for poor working conditions and raping the enviroment around and near their operations. Once it's gone, there is no reclaiming the land. Flora and fauna are gone/going with little revitalization of the areas. Ask the county in Western Pennsylvania with the coal mines burning under the ground; it is expected to burn for many years making the land unlivable above it. Chemical runoff during and after the mines close has proven to be deadly for the enviroment, such as the mine dam runoff in the western states that polluted the river near it. Keep the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands for the wildlife and people of Tennessee.

Save our wilderness.

GREED vs. habitat. This is ridiculous. Do not allow this.
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<tr>
<td>2897</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<td>I support Tennessee's wish to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland</td>
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<td>Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all</td>
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<td>ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td>Alternative 4 is the best choice in my opinion, as long as an important</td>
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<td>modification is made that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be</td>
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<td>approved ONLY in the small number of cases where the State of Tennessee and</td>
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<td>OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining</td>
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<td>outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
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<td>Once modified, Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land,</td>
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<td>wildlife, and water quality. It will provide the opportunity for a more</td>
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<td>sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These</td>
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<td>mountains can and should be protected forever.</td>
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<td>Thank you for allowing me to comment.</td>
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| 2898| I support Alternative 4, but please include a modification that any re-        |
|     | mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases |
|     | where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or           |
|     | environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.  |
|     | No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted     |
|     | water.                                                                       |
|     | Thanks                                                                        |

| 2899| Let's do everything possible to protect the wildlife!                         |
| 2900| I strongly support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all         |
|     | ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable    |
|     | for surface mining, including all ridgelines extending to and connecting     |
|     | with stream corridors.                                                      |
|     | I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-    |
|     | mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited     |
|     | cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or    |
|     | environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. |
|     | The modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land,    |
|     | wildlife and water quality. It will protect the people by providing          |
|     | the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy  |
|     | in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.                    |
|     | Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments on this Draft       |
|     | Environmental Impact Statement.                                             |

| 2901| I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the |
|     | North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining,  |
|     | including all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.  |
|     | I strongly support - and urge you to adopt - Alternative 4 with a critical   |
|     | modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved  |
|     | ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that |
|     | the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage    |
|     | caused by re-mining.                                                        |
|     | The modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land,    |
|     | wildlife and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the      |
|     | opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in  |
|     | the future. These mountains can and should be forever.                      |
|     | Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments on this Draft       |
|     | Environmental Impact Statement.                                             |
2902 Dear State of Tennessee,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the North Cumberland Management Area Lands unsuitable for mining draft.

I am in firm support of Alternative IV with a provision to limit remining.

I grew up in Maryland, and have had driven extensively through and camped in the lovely state of Tennessee. Please preserve this amazing state.

The recent COP21 conference in Paris stressed the importance of keeping most of the fossil fuels in the ground in order to reach the climate goals agreed upon.

In President Obama's State of the Union address, and subsequent actions to review coal processing, this nation is beginning to look at the issue of conservation.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, let's preserve the lands of this country.

Sincerely,
Karen Anderson

2903 Please do not use one more square inch for surface mining!!!!!!! Enough already! Thank you.

2904 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Och
Pittsburgh, PA
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Matthew G. Skinner

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Sharon Wushensky

North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are unsuitable for mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Eckles

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Brenda Schaefer.

protect our national forest from mining!

Let's keep Tennessee's Cumberland Wildlife Management Area free of commercial interests that damage wildlife and the environment.

Look at what has happened to pristine creeks, mountain tops, polluted waters in West Virginia to know why I oppose mining in vulnerable wildlife areas in other beautiful areas in our great country. These lands are for all of us to enjoy, not to enrich the already rich.

Please do not allow ridgetop coal mining in the North Cumberlands! Ridgetop mining on fragile lands will certainly damage headwater sources that are essential to streams and stream life. Tennessee is lucky to be so rich in fertile areas with plenty of water. However as Tennessee continues to grow in population and energy needs more and more petitions are being made to harm our natural beauty and resources. Please don't allow this to happen. Please choose alternative 4 so that the ridgetop coal mining is designated as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. Please protect the parks water resources, the beautiful waterfall, the talk mountain tops and headwater streams.

The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area is unsuitable for surface mining.
I support alternative 4 with modifications. Alternative 4 would conserve the most mountain tops. The modification that we recommend is that: re-mining ONLY occur when environmental damages from previous mining MUST be corrected. The State and OSMRE would have to agree on the need to permit re-mining.

Only 67,000 acres!? 

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
[your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,
Andrea Smith

There is no viable reason to subject the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands to Mining. These lands are to be managed to to support the wildlife in that area and any mining will ruin the habitat for the very animals this Management Area was set up to protect.

It is long past time to stop destroying our natural heritage for profit. The destruction of our mountains and other wild places to uncover wealth and then leave in its place a toxic wasteland with no resemblance to what was there previously is not what we should be leaving our children.

This area should be protected for all of us and must be off limit to mining or any other private interests.

Thank you Erika Boka

Please think on behalf of your state's long-lasting natural habitat. Don't give in to greed. Once the land and associated wildlife and flora are ruined, it's for good. Your state is lovely, keep it that way.

Please we need to save them!!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

K George

I support the Alternative 4 Plan—please protect our lands from destructive mining!

Please reconsider plans for permitting surface mining at the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Surface mining destroys environments, and once erosion gets started its cumulative effects are awful - and cannot be undone. A wildlife area is supposed to be preserved for wildlife, not wrecked for corporate profit. And certainly not ruined permanently by environmental mis-management.

We support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

Surface coal operation would affect fragile land, resulting in damage to natural systems and important historical, cultural and aesthetic values of the land.

Ignacy Fonberg

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

K George
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rosenkrantz

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification for any re-mining of old sites in the area. These should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

I have been to Big South Fork NRRA and it is exquisite. I have family who live in the Upper Cumberland area and preserving water quality is of utmost importance for the people and wildlife that inhabit this beautiful region of Tennessee. Therefore I believe this modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife and water quality. These mountains of Big South Fork can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Susan O. Vail
Alternative 4 is by far the most preferred for protecting the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. It would withdraw many tens of thousands of acres in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area from the threat and danger of surface mining. Surface mining leaves destruction of habitats in its wake and contaminates local streams that are critical for wildlife and our recreational areas. The welfare of the local economy will seriously hurt by the loss of visitors and what profit from the mining will not replace it. When the mining is finished the damage will remain and the taxpayers and local citizens will be left to pay for the clean up as always.

Alternative 4 must be modified so that any re-mining of old sites in the area have to be approved in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement agree that the safety and environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

Preserving this area for future generations of visitors and residents has to have priority.

Thank you for accepting my comment.

I strongly urge- Alternative 4! (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Do your job- Protect our lands, waters, wildlife, future & health! You work for citizens- Not industry!

Your attention to this most urgent matter would be much appreciated by all present & future generations of all species.

Thank you

Lydia Garvey  Public Health Nurse

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer:

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with the critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Sincerely,

Mike Strawn

You should not be thinking of any type development in this area especially fracking which destroys the environment. Just like surface mining destroys the land fracking leaves behind chemicals and waste in surface ponds. Please do not approve the fracking plans for this wilderness area.
I am a lifelong resident of Tennessee, and I especially enjoy hiking and photographing this beautiful state. The state of Tennessee has asked that certain ridgelines and connecting corridors within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement be designated as Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM). I fully support this request. Alternative 4 seems like the best choice to me. I think it has the best chance of protecting watersheds and also protecting jobs in the tourism industry. Surface mining provides very few jobs in Tennessee. Please opt for alternative 4.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Judith King

This land is unsuitable for projects such as this. Respectfully, Lisa Randall

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Nancy Soke
2941 No to the proposal to permit strip mining in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The natural beauty and tourism potential of the area is far more important than the momentary removal of minerals and permanent destruction of the land. The damage from surface mining includes poisoning of the water supply. At a time when coal prices, demand and profitability is at an all time low and the rest of the nation and the world is turning to alternative energy sources, it is unconscionable to ruin a natural heritage. Please reject all permits to mining, surface and otherwise, to Big South Fork. Thank you.

2942 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Layfield

2943 Nothing good has come of mining so let the environment be.

2944 Nothing good has come of mining so let the environment be.

2945 Under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), a member of the public may petition a state regulatory authority to declare areas not otherwise precluded from coal mining operations as "lands unsuitable for mining" (LUM). Such a designation would mean that no new surface coal mining permits could be issued within the designated area.

As the SMCRA regulatory authority in Tennessee, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is evaluating a petition to designate more than 67,000 acres as unsuitable for surface coal mining. The bureau began work on the petition in 2010 after the State of Tennessee petitioned OSMRE to designate certain ridge lines and connecting corridors within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement under the discretionary provisions of Section 522 of SMCRA. The petition seeks to prevent surface mining within 600 feet on either side of ridge lines within the 269 square miles of the two areas.

The following assertions serve as the basis for the State's petition:

Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and,

Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I agree with the State of Tennessee's analysis that surface mining is inappropriate for any and all ridgelines within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, and especially ridgelines that serve as watersheds.

I strongly support Alternative 4, but I would add a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area be approved ONLY in the kind of case where projected benefits obviously outweigh the potential for environmental harm, as mutually assessed by the State of Tennessee and OSMRE.

This modified version of Alternative 4 will guarantee important, necessary protections for the land, wildlife, and water quality, while also providing a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the long term. The current caretakers need to preserve the beauty and natural environment of these mountains so that future generations can enjoy and appreciate them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Patricia Hawkins

---

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Patricia Hawkins

---

I love this area. Please protect it from surface mining.

Hello,

Please count my support toward the plan that is least destructive to the natural environment - and the wildlife within - which of the suggested plans, is Option #4. I understand the economic and business decisions need made every day, but I urge you all to consider the long-term effects of such economic activity, and consider the environmental and wildlife future over the dollars to be made today.

Thank you,

Robbie Vaughn
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Todd Monson

I am a concerned citizen who spends her vacation time hiking and enjoying our nation's beautiful public parks and lands. I am in strong support of Alternative 4 which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement-that re-mining mprovement-that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Janelle Pollock

no comments at this time
Mountaintops provide unique ecosystems and preserve a variety of species found nowhere else in the world. Do not allow strip mining to destroy these pristine landscapes. We don't need the coal above ground. There is plenty of renewable energy above ground. There is nothing of interest to touring travelers in an empty hole. A mountaintop vibrant with life and unique species is a thing of beauty and can add to a growing tourist industry which will not destroy the environment. Please leave the coal in the ground and help coal miners and their children come to an understanding that they do not have to rape the earth in order to make a living from it. We need to live sustainably.

It is very important, not to say urgent, to save our environment for future generations!

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I live in Washington State, and have been a member of Citizens Advisory Committees to protect both surface and ground water (at city, county, and state levels) since the 1990s. Our diverse group has created large reports, in conjunction with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), that have been used to create laws and best management practices for surface mining of gravel, coal, and gold in our state. I personally led a neighborhood group that closed down a specific local gravel pit because it wanted to expand its operations to an area directly above the underground springs that serves our city of Carnation with all of its water, and perched aquifers that supplies the private wells of larger-acre home sites in the immediate area. I am globally active in protecting water for the people, wildlife, and ecosystems that sustain the earth for all of us. And I'm very protective of our water in the United States. So I deeply care about this area in Tennessee.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Boynton

We must protect wildlife management areas for the animals and their habitats. The animals deserve a safe place to live and have their families.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tr>
<td>2959</td>
<td><strong>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</strong>&lt;br&gt;I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.□&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.□&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.□&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.□&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Sincerely,&lt;br&gt;Bodhi Kohler</td>
</tr>
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<td>2960</td>
<td><strong>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</strong>&lt;br&gt;I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.□&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.□&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.□&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.□&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Sincerely,&lt;br&gt;Tim Mock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2961</td>
<td>We need to protect our environment from large scale human activities as proven by our affect on the climate. Future generations are dependent on our actions. We need to save as much as possible of what nature has taken centuries to create, for that is why we have an earth that is habitable by so many people. Do not impact the North Cumberland Management Area-let it remain in its natural state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2962</td>
<td>I strongly believe that the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Lands should be declared unsuitable for mining and preserved as they are. Mining is destructive and scaring; the natural beauty of so many landscapes in America is being ruined by commercial interests. □&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Carol Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2963</td>
<td>We have all seen how this type of coal mining has destroyed the environment and lives of West Virginia citizens. Outside of the argument that coal is a poor source of energy for the climate, there are other, less environmentally sensitive areas where it can be mined. Not this area.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sharon Beaufait

Totally now understand that most of you are not human and don’t give a damn about this planet or country.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Megan Steva
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<tr>
<td>2967</td>
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<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Sincerely,</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jillian Forschner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2968</td>
<td><strong>Stop digging and leave these beautiful places alone for everyone</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2969</td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
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<td><strong>Sincerely,</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Robert Donovan</td>
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</table>
ID: 2970

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I will be watching your actions in this matter. Please do what is right for our environment.

Sincerely,

Debbie K

ID: 2971

I support a ban on ridge top mining in the Cumberland Mountains. We can not degrade our environment, threaten endangered species, to extract a dirty fuel that contributes to climate change.

Thank you, Ellen Clark

ID: 2972

It is obvious that such mining should be restricted!

ID: 2973

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Erika Whitton
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

David N. McDonald
Mattoon, IL

My husband Bill Palmer and I have lived in East TN for 28 years. We moved to Norris TN after a 2 year search of communities as far south as Chattanooga & north to the Kentucky border. We chose this area because of its natural beauty including the water quality of the upper Clinch River and Norris Lake, the proximity of parks for outdoor recreation and associated wildlife. This area is a treasure for those of us lucky enough to live here and for the vacationing families who increasingly have discovered all this part of the state has to offer. We must preserve and maintain this valuable resource for current and future generations.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for my additional opinions about surface mining in this area.

Emily Barnes

Please remove the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area from consideration for surface mining.

How much are we going to destroy!
<table>
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<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □ I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □ I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □ This modification to Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will also protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Once we’re done destroying our planet, we do not have another one to go to. □ Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2980</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □ I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □ I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □ This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □ Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. □ Sincerely, □ Brian Humphrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2981</td>
<td>This petition is thoughtful and protective of Tennessee’s heritage and economy … Big business shouldn’t push Tennessee people into something they don’t want!… Keep Tennessee beautiful and healthy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2982</td>
<td>We have to save our wildlife areas before they are gone. Once gone, we will never get them back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2983</td>
<td>The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are unsuitable for Mining. Please protect them!!</td>
</tr>
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Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Mink

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Carole Connet

One of the greatest assets of the State of Tennessee is its natural beauty and its potential for tourism. With energy prices in decline, the future of coal mining is uncertain. This makes it particularly important to find a balanced approach between the exploration of valuable resources, such as coal, while protecting the valuable resource of vistas and natural beauty for tourism.

In this context, I urge you to consider "Alternative 4", protecting all ridgeline corridors in the specified area, and connecting to specific stream corridors. I understand that this will restrict some mining activities, but it is an acceptable compromise.

In addition, I urge you to consider a modification that would allow re-mining ONLY to address actual environmental problems - which should be a rather rare occurrence.

Best regards,

Hans Christen, Knoxville.

I support the Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.

This land is unsuitable for mining. Use it for what it is meant to be for. Leave it alone. Thank you.

It is obvious this is an unsuitable area for mining. Please protect it for ALL Americans!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer:

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Stone

---

Do the right thing!

I think I prefer option 4. But does that prevent re-mining? It should!

I've had the pleasure of hiking and camping in Big South Fork over five weekends in the past seven years. It's a marvelous recreational area for hikers, horsemen, bikers, and kayakers. And I think parts of it are used by hunters on some occasions. I'd hate to see the land scarred, the waters polluted, and the wildlife threatened.

Let's do all we can to protect that wonderful area!

As a user and supporter of the Cumberland Trail who has for many years appreciated and enjoyed the wonderful biological diversity of the Cumberland Mountains, I would like to comment on the draft Draft Environmental Impact Statement on ridgeline mining in fragile areas within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. Recreation and tourism are by far a better use for this area than coal mining, both in terms of citizen well-being and economic impact. Considering the relatively small role that coal mining plays in employment in Tennessee, compared to travel and tourism expenditures in this area, I strongly support Alternative 4, with the stipulation that any re-mining in this fragile area otherwise deemed unsuitable for mining should be approved only by consensus among all the applicable state and federal agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important issue.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed recreation in this area for many years and consider our wonderful geography and recreation features to be a key to the quality of life in the region. Collateral impacts from mining are too risky due to the stakes being so high when there are unintended consequences. Some of these impacts could be very difficult or impossible to undo. It's just not worth risking for capitalistic investment to benefit the few and corporate interests.

Moreover, coal is an obsolete energy source both economically and environmentally. We must move beyond it and its troubles. I increasingly invest my political votes accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Charles Manneschmidt

Please keep mining out of North Cumberland Wildlife Area. We need to protect our lands for all to enjoy - including future generations. thank you
The League of Women Voters, Tennessee Chapter (League) has reviewed the DEIS titled North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining prepared for the LUM petition filed by the State of Tennessee. The League is a statewide non-profit organization with a large and well established chapter located in Anderson County. Members of the League live and recreate in Anderson County. The League has long been concerned with the continued and often times destructive ridge line and cross ridge line mining being accomplished on the Cumberland Plateau in East Tennessee because of the frequent adverse impacts to fish and aquatic life, water quality, areas of fragile lands and the more recently burgeoning tourism dollars being brought into the Cumberlands due to the beauty of the area and the multiple recreational opportunities offered. Already some available records show that visitors to the 4-county area affected by this LUM have spent more than $177 million tourism dollars, increasing local jobs by more than 1400 and increasing state and local tax revenues by nearly $16 million dollars. By all estimates, that is more than all the coal mining performed in Tennessee in recent years.

For these reasons and others, the League urges the OSMRE to adopt Alternative 4 discussed in the DEIS and not the preferred alternative (Alternative 3) for the following reasons:

1. Alternative 4 comes the closest to accomplishing the intent of the State's LUM petition of designating "all of the ridgelines" as unsuitable for surface mining operations in NCWMA. Alternative 4 covers 74,900 acres, 7,000 more acres than Alt. 3, but as does Alt. 3, Alternative 4 would allow remining and reclamation on existing, previously mined areas. There would be short-term adverse effects on land, water and aquatic species, but longer term positive and beneficial effects related to the larger designated area and no known long-term significant adverse impacts.

2. The one critical modification the League would strongly urge the OSMRE to adopt regarding this plan, is to allow remining ONLY in those areas where there is a consensus among federal and other government agencies that the risks and impacts of the remining operation are outweighed by the long-termed environmental benefits of the proposed operation.

3. To accomplish such a critical component of the plan, the League would urge the use of existing interagency working processes to closely scrutinize any specific proposal to remine and insure that reclamation and oversight was included.

4. Finally, OSMRE's analysis of the petition's claim that the proposed area contains "fragile lands" seems very confusing because in the Conclusion OSMRE seems to be saying that it does not agree that...

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Carlos Townsend

Please protect the North Cumberland Wildlife Area from mining! These lands are our legacy and we must protect them. Please leave petroleum products in the ground so they can’t produce carbon dioxide in our atmosphere and ultimately poison the earth.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2999</td>
<td>I have reviewed PED/EIS and believe that OSM's preferred alternative is reasonable under the circumstances and affords adequate protection to the affected resources. I am a member of both the National Parks Conservation Association and the Sierra Club and visit the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area occasionally for hiking and wildlife viewing. I support Alternative 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3000</td>
<td>Save. it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3001</td>
<td>I am writing to voice my support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Thank you for your serious consideration of my comments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3002</td>
<td>What more can I say? &quot;GUARD IT WELL, FOR IT IS FAR MORE PRECIOUS THAN MONEY . . . ONCE DESTROYED, NATURE'S BEAUTY CANNOT BE REPURCHASED AT ANY PRICE.&quot; —Ansel Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3003</td>
<td>I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3004</td>
<td>I support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should NOT be approved in any circumstances. We need to end our fossil fuel addiction. Investing in its mining and transportation are contributing to its burning and to the global climate crisis. We must think proactively and toward a GREEN clean energy future by investing instead in renewable energy technology development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3005</td>
<td>I agree with NPCA to support Alternative 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3006</td>
<td>Please support the preservation of The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area by enabling Alternative Four. This beautiful area is unsuitable for surface mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3007</td>
<td>Alternative 4 designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Please take the next important step forward. Please approve &quot;Alternative 4&quot; and protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork River! Thank you,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Corey Dugan
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Linda Magri

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Surface mining damages fragile areas and disrupts the ecosystem.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Please be environmentally conscious and do not ruin our lands.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Mika Stonehawk

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We support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Also, we strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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Please protect our mountains for future generations.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Chris Grocholske
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

We are part of the web of life, and the forests are too - let's keep it all connected.

Charles P. Nicholson
60 Pine Road, PO Box 402
Norris, TN 37828


I am a long-time Anderson County resident and have been visiting, recreating, and studying birds in the petition area for over 40 years. Since the late 1970s, I have censused birds on the USFWS/USGS Elk Valley Breeding Bird Survey route which runs through the heart of the Koppers portion of the North Cumberland WMA and on the Smokey Junction Breeding Bird Survey route on the northwest border of the North Cumberland WMA. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, I conducted wildlife and vegetation studies in the petition area as part of an EPA/TVA mine reclamation study. In the 1990s, I conducted the first detailed study of cerulean warblers in the petition area.

I offer the following comments on the Draft Petition Evaluation Document / Environmental Impact Statement.

Table of Contents - To make the document more reader-friendly, add Volume indicators to the Table of Contents. Also add Tables of Contents to Volumes II and III.

Summary, p. v, Primary allegation (2) - The 5th sentence states Thus, portions of area meet the definition of fragile lands& The last sentence states Therefore, the area does not qualify as either historic or fragile lands& Please explain this contradictory conclusion. An area can be determined unsuitable under 30 CFR - 762.11b(2) by being either historic or fragile, rather than both historic and fragile as concluded for Primary allegation (2).

Summary, p. vii, and p. 4-2 - Earth Resources/Geology - This section states there are three predominant geologic structural features in the area, the North Cumberland Plateau, Wartburg Basin, and the Cumberland Block. The next sentence then changes the context of the geologic structural features by

I do NOT want our beautiful Mountains in TN destroyed! Please stop this from happening. Paula Shannon
3020  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Debbie Thorn

3021  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Judy Singer

West Hartford, CT
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Alan Ticotsky

Please consider the Tennessee petition and not allow strip mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife management area. Thank you for your time working for our great country.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
As an ornithologist I have hiked extensively through the Cumberland Mountains over the past 16 years, gathering data on the presence and distribution of the Cerulean Warbler (Setophaga cerulea). The majority of these studies have been conducted in the area petitioned by the State of Tennessee as unsuitable for surface coal mining. I would like to express my support for this petition that includes all the ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA) and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement (ERCA).

I find the two justifications used by the State; 1) that surface mining would be in conflict with plans and programs of the State, and 2) that fragile wildlife habitat would be significantly damaged by surface coal mining, are both valid. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) correctly presents evidence that mining operations would be incompatible with the management objectives in the State Wildlife Action Plan and 2015 Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan and correctly presents evidence that habitat for the Cerulean Warbler is too fragile to be mined for coal. The Cerulean Warbler requires large tracks of mature hardwood forest and shares this habitat with several other forest-dependent species. Since normal permitting requirements and modern reclamation methods cannot replace this habitat, by definition, it is fragile and, by definition, it is unsuitable for surface mining.

The Cerulean Warbler is the forest bird of the highest conservation concern in Tennessee and the OSMRE correctly presents evidence for why this bird deserves its special status. Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is aware of the particular responsibility it has to protect Cerulean Warbler habitat. The NCWMA and ERCA provide habitat for a significant proportion of the breeding population (Buehler et al. 2006), and within the petition area it reaches its highest breeding densities and highest breeding success found anywhere in this species' range (Welton 2014, Boves 2011). Since TWRA has management control over both of these areas, it controls the best and largest amount of Cerulean Warbler habitat of any single entity.

The continuity of forested ridges in the petition area may play an important role in the early spring. Cerulean Warblers, returning from their 2,000-mile migration from the Andes of South America, occupy the lower slopes before the emergence of leaves at higher elevations (Welton 2015). As spring advances the birds slowly move up-slope to breeding areas. Since Cerulean Warblers disproportionately nest on

Please don't mine the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Vance Lausmann

I feel that park land should be left undisturbed so that all generations may enjoy.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Regards,

Vance Lausmann

Protect instead of being greedy

The NCWMA is unsuitable for additional mining and has far greater value to the American people as wildlife habitat, watershed, recreational areas.  Preserve this area for future generations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3033 | **To Whom It May Concern at the Department of Interior:**
| | I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the state of Tennessee's request to designate all the ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as an area unsuitable for surface mining. As people of faith, I believe it behooves us to help protect God's creation, creatures and people. By declaring this area unsuitable for surface mining, you'll be protecting 500 miles of Tennessee's ridge lines. Please support this request by the state of Tennessee to prevent surface mining of all the ridge line corridors in the petition area extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.
| | This designation helps preserve the mountain ecosystem, prevents flooding, prevents toxins from surface mining being released into the air, water and soil. Mountaintop removal exudes toxic wastes into the air and water, and these wastes are harming people and. Death rates from cancer are higher among people who live where mountaintop removal occurred. Other health problems include asthma, kidney disease, and skin ailments. High rates of Birth Defects have been linked to mountaintop removal. These are terrible effects of surface mining. The ugly scarring of God's mountain creations result from this practice. Tourists are drawn to East Tennessee because of its scenic mountains.
| | This petition allows the Department of Interior to protect this area of Tennessee from these serious problems. Please be a good steward of God's creation and exempt this area of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area from the devastating destruction of surface mining.
| | Psalms 65:5-6 "O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, who formed the mountains by your power."
| 3034 | There has already been enough mining and mining damage to and in the state of Kentucky. The LAST thing it needs, is to allow any more mining in it. It does nothing for "workers", and the only people in enriches are the owners of the corporations, the major stock holders, along with also destroying more of the environment.
| 3035 | I have been in East Tennessee for most of my adult life: nearly 40 years. I lived in Anderson County for the first two years; since then I've lived in Knox County. The Cumberland Mountains to the north remain a source of peace and inspiration for me ... Big South Fork in particular.
| | I am in favor of Alternative 4 in the DEIS, but with the caveat that remining should be permitted only when the long-term environmental benefits are significant and the short-term negative environmental impacts are minimal. The decision regarding a remining permit should (a) not be driven simply by compliance with SMCRA regulations, (b) be reached jointly by OSMRE and the State of Tennessee, and (c) include consultation with the Superintendent of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area (BISO).
| | The rivers and canyons of BISO, located downstream of the NCWMA, are a rare asset for East Tennessee and deserve full protection as wilderness. BISO falls outside the evaluation area used in the DEIS. This evaluation area is a logical and satisfactory analytical tool, but it cannot take into account the effects of prospective remining in all relevant cases. As the DEIS correctly notes, "pollutants in surface waters can be transported a long distance downstream from their source thereby degrading waters outside the evaluation area" (DEIS, 6-72). Despite the general utility of the evaluation area used in the DEIS, OSMRE needs to take into account the downstream proximity of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area when crafting its decision process for remining permits.
| 3036 | Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,
| | I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.
| | Marisa Strange
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3037</td>
<td>I live in the coalfields of far southwest Virginia, very near the state of Tennessee. I have witnessed, firsthand, the effects of surface mining on the water, land and people of our region. If surface mining is permitted in the North Cumberland area of Tennessee the effects will be the same as what we have experienced here. Please protect this area and declare the North Cumberland area of Tennessee unsuitable for mining. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3038</td>
<td>Please protect our mountains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3039</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3040</td>
<td>stop mining - we are destroying everything around us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3041</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, matt b cutts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

[Your name here]

Thank you for taking the time to speak up for the watershed of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Together we can make this historic opportunity a reality.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Speer

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Martha Waltman

Please save the South Fork!

Please stop destroying wilderness, national parks and forests, and wildlife habitat.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

David and Ann Cordero

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

My ancestors were some of the first pioneers in the Cumberland River area, and I share their strong attachment to the lands they fought to defend.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Luan Marks

Protect wildlife lands.
I strongly support the State of Tennessee in designating all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I also support modification to Alternative 4 where re-mining of any old sites in the area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and the OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages caused by re-mining.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. The Cumberland Trail provides a great opportunity to share our amazing natural resources. However, nobody wants to hike through a view shed marred by destroyed land with polluted water. Tourism is far more important than mining to the current and future economy of Tennessee. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. By contrast, there were 135 people employed in surface mining in the entire State of Tennessee in 2013.

The entire petition area should be designated as "Fragile Lands", because:
- The area is rated "very high" for habitat protection.
- Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 of 34 special-status species and mining is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.
- We need to account for the impact on species living downstream of the petition area.
- OSMRE’s draft Environmental Impact Statement determined that the petition area contains natural resources that meet the "Fragile Lands" definition.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on the North Cumberland Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Stanfill
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3051</td>
<td>I am a resident of Anderson County one of the four counties in which the petition area lies. I frequently visit and hike in the North Cumberland Mountains, including the Cumberland trail, Big South Fork, OBSWRA, Frozen Head and other areas in the petition area. Maintaining the integrity of these areas is critical for me as an outdoor enthusiast. Surface mining of the area in the petition would have such a negative impact on the views that this area offers. Each area in the petition offers us such a diverse environment from the numerous species of birds and other wildlife, to the different trees and animals that is specific only to this area. Often when hiking in the Big South Fork I have witnessed heavy siltation in the park coming from the New River Watershed many miles inside the boundary of the park. The park is home to many endangered water species that deserve the highest quality of protection from upstream activities. Anderson County advertises itself as an outdoor tourism destination and the future of our local economy depends on the integrity of our rivers, lakes and mountains. Surface mining would have a negative impact on tourism. Accordingly I urge OSM to designate all the ridge line corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. It is my understanding that alternative four comes the closest to protecting the largest number of ridge line corridors. In relation to re-mining, most areas prior to 1977 are stabilized and should not be disturbed. Accordingly approving any mining in this area should be a rare exception to the rule that this area is unsuitable for surface mining. I appreciate the opportunity to comment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3052</td>
<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3053</td>
<td>I would like to lend my voice against the destruction of irreplaceable land for the short term gain of someone who doesn’t love the natural beauty of Tennessee. Thank you Jim Haney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3054</td>
<td>Please keep mining interest out of this beautiful wildlife area, pristine lands and waterways especially waterways. Thank you for your time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3055</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Deborah Walden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3056</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

M Leszczynski

| 3057| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, |

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Lisa R.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

As someone who loves hiking, camping, viewing wildlife and wildflowers, backpacking, and paddling in the Big South Fork and North Cumberlands, I strongly support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easements as unsuitable for surface mining, covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. Intact mountain views and water quality are vital to the quality of the outdoor experiences. Aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals are in the process of recovering from serious damage inflicted by previous mining. I agree with OSM’s conclusion that the petition area provides valuable habitat and is qualified as “fragile lands” that could be significantly damaged by surface mining.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with the critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kendrick

I strongly support Alternative 4, the preferred plan, with one crucial improvement—that re-mining of old sites in the protected area be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Brian Fink
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Wright

I am writing to comment on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcements (OSM) Draft Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement OSM-EIS-37 (PED/EIS) for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA). I am a professional aquatic ecologist who has studied surface mined streams in the petition area since beginning my graduate studies at the University of Tennessee Knoxville in 1979. My doctoral dissertation titled Structural and Functional Organization of Macroarthropod Communities in a Mined versus a Pristine Stream in the Cumberland Mountains of Eastern Tennessee studied two streams in detail, but I was involved in studies of many others at the time. I have continued to study these streams periodically since then.

The elimination of surface mining proposed by alternative 4 of the Draft Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement OSM-EIS-37 (PED/EIS) will most effectively achieve the goals of the petitioners and protect the sensitive habitats and ecosystems of the petition area. However, this will only be the case if the remining exception to this alternative is eliminated or highly constrained. Alternative 4 is the best alternative in that it contains all the ridgelines the state seeks to protect, but this will only be true if exceptions for remining are eliminated or very carefully evaluated. My reasons for opposing the exceptions for remining follow:

First, I wish to point out that remining to reclaim unreclaimed highwalls is unnecessary and counterproductive. Any unreclaimed highwalls date from pre-SMCRA mining, and therefore are at least 30 years old. While these mines generated a lot of ecological damage from siltation and altered hydrology when they were first mined, they have largely stabilized at this point. I have walked and RVd some of these old benches and most of them have grown up in new forest or developed wetlands on the horizontal benches. In many places untrained persons might not even recognize they were on a former coal mine other than the oddly level terrace following the elevation contour around the mountain.

Further, the scale of the mines in the pre-SMCRA era were much smaller than any new mine would be. Any remining would inevitably involve mining on a much larger scale than occurred previously. This is actually self-evident since the coal from the preexisting mine footprint has already been removed. Thus the only economic justification for remining would require digging deeper into the mountainside (or mountaintop removal) in order to extract additional coal to provide a profit to the remining. This remined area would have to be reclaimed as per SMCRA; however, this will not prevent the adverse environmental impacts associated with strip mining. It will allow restoration of Approximate Original Contour (AOC), but this is an aesthetic, not an ecologic, improvement. In fact, because of the smaller scale of these old mine benches compared to the larger footprint of the new mines coupled to the fact
I. Ridge Line corridor mapping for Alternative 3 and Alternative 4
The intent of Tennessee's Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition is to protect 1,200 ft. ridge line corridors on the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA) and the Emory River Track Conservation Easement (ERTCE). Ridge line corridors as mapped in the state's petition are designed to descend to and connect with riparian stream corridors as occur on the NCWMA and ERTCE. Unified ecological corridors are intended to support the goals of both the 2015 Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan and Tennessee's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (TWRA 2005). The connected corridors are designed to protect valuable aquatic and terrestrial habitats and the animal and plant species they support. In preparing the LUM Petition, the State utilized the best information available at that time, including mapping from the State's Geographic Information System (GIS) and printed quadrangle maps as prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

During the process of evaluating the LUM Petition, OSMRE had the opportunity to employ state of the art mapping technology that was unavailable to the State. This technology, which goes by the term LiDar, utilizes laser light emission and radar capture to map land surface features. LiDar is employed by flying over the area to be mapped and using resulting imagery to produce computer-generated maps. Utilizing this new technology, OSMRE identified an additional sixty-four (64) miles of ridge lines as compared to the State's ridge line mapping. To be clear, Tennessee has no objection to utilizing LiDar technology to produce the most accurate ridge line maps.

In OSMRE Alternative 4, an additional 64 miles of LiDar identified ridge lines have been added to the petition area. TWRA supports Alternative 4 as proposed. TWRA has no objection to Alternative 3.

II. Assessment of the impact of Alternatives on surface streams and aquatic ecology
OSMRE incorporates a study from West Virginia entitled "Landscape indicators and thresholds of stream ecological impairment in an intensively mined Appalachia watershed" by Petty et al. (2010) into consideration of the extent of adverse aquatic ecological impact from current and future mining in the region.

Please withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Hilarie Louis
Lands long ago were set aside for the people. These lands are very important to us and in the end for the whole world. Habitat for all that live on the lands. We need to keep these lands for the forever. Protection now means lands forever and that's what we want.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jen Lo

I support for Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Laura Redwine

Folks, I have flown over this area on my way to visit a dear friend in D.C. I was shocked and saddened to see all the big scars of mountaintop removal. Please do what you can to stop the destruction of our beautiful North Cumberland. Please call a halt to surface mining. We don't need these resources and we do need to leave the beauty of these hills to our future generations.

Industry has proven again and again they have no respect for nature or the people who must survive somewhere after the corporations have raped the land, water and air. Enough is enough...gouging the earth for more fossil fuels is a dead end endeavor

Please care for our environment. There are some mining operations that should not happen!

It is time to weigh the costs to our future by the destruction of our lands. Leave this land for our future generations to enjoy and not lament.
I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining. This is a very important matter to me and my family's future.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Lee Stark

I would like to state my support for the position that the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands are unsuitable for mining.

Do no think of money, think of the environment and the damage that will be done. We need to protect our lands and environment.

Hello, I am a retired former professional engineer with over 30 years experience in mining, I wish to state my opposition to any mountaintop removals or mining of mountain ridgelines. I also oppose any re-mining of the same, except under the most stringent conditions which would include a full environmental impact study and the concurrence of all concerned adjacent landowners and environmentally concerned organizations. I believe that this should pertain to both coal and rock mining/ quarrying operations as well. Our vistas are an important legacy for us and for our children. Any potential short term economic benefits from these types of mining are far offset by the negative economic impacts on current and future tourism and upon our environment.

Thank you, Charles H. Grace

Hello, I am a retired resident of the State of Tennessee. I oppose mountaintop removals or mining of mountain ridgelines. I also oppose any re-mining of the same, except under the most stringent conditions which would include a full environmental impact study and the concurrence of all concerned adjacent landowners and environmentally concerned organizations. I believe that this should pertain to both coal and rock mining/ quarrying operations as well. Our vistas are an important legacy for us and for our children. Any potential short term economic benefits from these types of mining are far offset by the negative economic impacts on current and future tourism and upon our environment.

Thank you, Bennie M. Grace

I support Alternative 4, which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Julia Broad

Save the mountains and the environment please

The mountains of Tennessee should be preserved, not mined.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Vince Rubino

The mountains of Tennessee should be preserved, not mined.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

C Saunier

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
You (and We the People) have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

You can do this by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region.

I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement: that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

I urge you to support the petition, with Alternative 4 as the first choice.

WE (the People) and therefore You, as our employee, have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

You can do this by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region.

And I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement: that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

As a soon-to-be Tennessean migrating from exurban NJ in the near future, I and my family have a vested interest in seeing that America the Beautiful's national, regional and local environment is protected wherever possible for the education & enjoyment of our (and your) children and grandchildren.

I urge you to support the petition, with Alternative 4 as the first choice. Thank you for 'listening.'
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3091</td>
<td>Re: North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Please declare this mountain range to be off limits to all forms of surface mining and mountain destruction. As for that matter, it would be good to declare ALL mountains in Tennessee unsuitable for mining. □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3092</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3093</td>
<td>I support version 4. Please leave the land alone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3094</td>
<td>We have clear examples through the Appalachian region where mining □ leaves a permanent mark on the environment. Wildlife management areas □ and mining are not compatible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3095</td>
<td>I agree with the efforts underway to protect the mountains in East Tennessee from mountain top removal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3096</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>□ I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. □</td>
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<td>□ I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. □</td>
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<td>□ This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. □</td>
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<td>□ Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3097</td>
<td>Please protect Tennessee lands and the surrounding region against surface mining and promote renewable energy resources instead. Thank you.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
By allowing strip mining coal extraction within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, the Office of Surface Mining will bear responsibility for permanently defacing and degrading an important natural area, home to the only elk herd in the East, remembering that this is a special herd that had to be re-introduced by man at significant cost due to previous abuse and misguided policy.

As documented by EIA, the precipitous decline in demand for coal is real and appears to be long term, if not permanent, due to world response to climate change, air and water pollution and permanent destruction of irreplaceable natural areas. In the US, this decline is occurring even without new pollution regulations that are pending and can be expected to accelerate the decline in use of coal by US utilities, many of which are rapidly closing coal fired plants, plan to close more or all, and are replacing them with entirely new plants that use less polluting fuels and will be unsuitable for burning coal.

The trend away from coal is certain to accelerate with the virtual price parity of renewable energy. Based on technology, not extraction, RE costs will continue to decrease at a rapid rate, similar to the cost decline of computers. On the other hand, coal costs, based on extraction, acquisition of land and rights, labor costs, and increasingly difficult extractive challenges, are certain to increase.

The negative effect on coal company profits has already been dramatic, with a very large number of coal companies having already declared bankruptcy. More can be expected in the future, while those left are likely to respond by accelerating their operations to "get theirs" before the market collapses. Plenty of history in fossil fuels supports this prediction. All of which forebodes that panicked coal operators will fund extraction first and delay remediation as long as possible, if ever. Again there is plenty of history of failing industries leaving vast polluted tracts for the public to clean up. For surface extraction operators, this would also mean leaving blighted lands and habitats, in addition to toxic residues.

I urge you to not permit surface mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

As President of Southeastern Avian Research I am writing to speak out in favor of Alternative 4 with one significant modification as it relates to Lands Unsuitable for Mining in the North Cumberland mountains in TN. I would further recommend that the modification be that mining would be highly restricted and rarely if at all take place in the already protected areas. I would also recommend that there be a strict application screening process and in order for the application to be approved that the mining project must outweigh the impact that it will have to the affected area.

We need to continue to highly protect our streams, the hardwood forests, and Cerulean Warbler habitat of the Cumberland Mountains while maintaining a balance between nature and man's needs and I believe that Alternative 4 will strike that accord.

Thank you.

The North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area in Tennessee is totally unsuitable for mining.

It is about time we stopped coal mining.

Please stand up for Nature!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3103</td>
<td><strong>Click Here to Help Protect the Big South Fork!</strong> <em>(This link will lead you to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's web form.)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Dear Jake,</strong></td>
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<td><strong>We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River &amp; Recreation Area!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>We can do this by supporting the State of Tennessee’s petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>But we need your help to make this happen.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is accepting public comments on alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this petition, and your comments are needed by Monday, January 25th.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Stand with NPCA by voicing your support for Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement— that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3104</td>
<td>I am a professional biologist with a long career invested in conservation. I am a Sewanee graduate and have worked in the mountains of Tennessee since 1955 and know first-hand the ecological value if ridge-line habitats: priceless!</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Dear Director Bandy:

On behalf of the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture, we are writing in support of the State of Tennessee’s petition to designate over 67,000 acres within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement as unsuitable for coal mining. The Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (AMJV) is one of 18 bird habitat Joint Ventures in the United States. Our mission is to restore and sustain viable populations of native birds and their habitats in the Appalachian region through effective, collaborative partnerships. We are a self-directed partnership, governed by a Management Board, that coordinates action among state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, universities, and industries to conserve and restore bird habitat within 12 states that comprise the Appalachian Region, from central New York south through northern Georgia and Alabama. Both the federal Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency are valued partners of the AMJV, with both represented on our AMJV Management Board.

The AMJV supports a modified version of Alternative 4 that would designate 569 miles of ridgeline covering 76,133 acres plus connect the descending ridgeline corridors all the way to the stream corridors. In addition, this alternative should include the stipulation that remining is only employed at sites in the designated area where both the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that safety and/or environmental remediation benefits outweigh the impacts of the remining practices.

As noted in the OSMRE Draft EIS for this petition, research has shown that this region is a critical population center for the Cerulean Warbler, one of the AMJVs highest priority species. The core of the Cerulean Warbler range occurs within the central and southern Appalachian Mountains, and research estimates that the Cumberland Mountain population may compose >20% of the range-wide population of this species. Cerulean Warblers have continued to decline since being petitioned but found not

COAL?? This is the 21st century is it not?
Monday, January 25, 2016

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
1951 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20240

Subject: Please select Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining - - North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft Petition Evaluation Document / Environmental Impact Statement

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I strongly support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

“Our duty to the whole, including to the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method.”

- - Theodore Roosevelt

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) should use the best possible science and technology to identify all the ridgelines in the petition area. Covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors with a lands unsuitable designation area will provide the best protection for the land and water quality. This represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. I therefore encourage the OSMRE to select Alternative 4, with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee, the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

Please no more surface mining which defaces the earth.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Susan Luu
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

As a former resident of Tennessee, I was often in awe of the beauty and diversity of the scenic beauty found throughout the state but particularly the East portion of the State.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Most Sincerely,
Kathryn Konigsberger

I support alternative 4 with modifications. Alternative 4 would conserve the most mountain tops. The modification that we recommend is that: re-mining ONLY occur when environmental damages from previous mining MUST be corrected. The State and OSMRE would have to agree on the need to permit re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Heather Frohbieter

I support alternative 4 with modifications. Alternative 4 would conserve the most mountain tops. The modification that I recommend is that: re-mining ONLY occur when environmental damages from previous mining MUST be corrected. The State and OSMRE would have to agree on the need to permit re-mining.

I support this petition under the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Designation. Particularly I think Alternative 4 is the best approach because it would preserve most mountain tops. As a former Director of State Parks in Tennessee, I have seen first hand the destruction caused by mountaintop removal, particularly to water quality.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Mark T Fraley
There has also been mtns with their tops "chopped off", or removed completely in and around these areas of Apison, E. Brainerd, E. Hamilton, Summit, Collecteddale, Harrison Bay State park and into Ooltewah, McDonald, Lebanon, Black Fox, Blue Springs, Oak Grove and into the Red Clay State Historic park areas and areas around these such as Cherokee Valley Ga, Cohutta, and more. These areas need more protections against ex/sub/urbanization or being rezoned away from being natural areas, used for natural conservation, and preservation of these nationally important historic roads, trails, paths, landscapes needed for interpretation of (international) history, such as when the Mayans, and others from other countries, etc used to visit these areas hundreds or thousands of years ago. The above activities could be destroying much needed geological forensic evidence, related to the above surface artifacts and underground, in (miles big) caves which may yield some information providing information on these areas and others beyond what we have understood before. Also, these areas do not need to be more developed as the above cave, is a large sinkhole which has not fallen in yet, and does not need to be taken out of its carrying capacity. These areas listed above were always supposed to remain as quiet, rural and sparsely populated, backwoods, rural areas and they should be "rewilded" and returned to that. These areas have much American Indian history, Civil and revolutionary War history and other history that has not been revealed and/or appreciated. These areas natural resources, need to be protected also, as these areas provide much of the water for much of the SE USA and beyond, providing waters for regional and local economies to grow, and to flourish, as well as the abundant wildlife and ecosystems that these waters support, both in TN, and throughout GA, Alabama, Fla, and eventually into the Mighty Mississippi river, etc. These waterways also insure that endangered/migratory/threatened species have the ecosystems they need to prosper kept intact. These areas have wetlands, forests, meadows and so on that need more protections also. We do not need transportation related developments above or underground, nor do we need the lands flattened out with big machines, etc. These areas always were deserving of protections before and they need to be now and in the times to come also. We need the Obama administration to protect these areas, their landscapes, historic roads, trails, paths and more from the development and sprawl that still continues to threaten it, today. These areas have long been used for ecotourism, agricultural uses and similar activities in times to come. The ongoing sprawl and expansions take their toll not just on the landscape but the citizens in and around these areas suffer for these expansions also, with many of the wise, stabilizing values that had defined the better part of these areas, falling by the wayside, leading older people, as well as those that are younger astray in their thinking, giving way to violence, drug running, and more that these areas had little to no problems with.

I support alternative 4 with modifications. Alternative 4 would conserve the most mountain tops. The modification that we recommend is that: re-mining ONLY occur when environmental damages from previous mining MUST be corrected. The State and OSMRE would have to agree on the need to permit re-mining.

Since we cannot blast off into outer space and arrive at another inhabitable planet, we're going to have to learn to take care of this one. We cannot continue to sacrifice wild lands, they're what sustain the water and air upon which we depend. They are the beating heart of the planet.
I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Richard and Jeri Lutman
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Nearby resident

Emily Genua
I am writing in support of the petition to designate 76,000 acres and 569 miles of ridgelines in the Upper Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (UCWMA) as unsuitable for surface coal mining. While alternative 4 is not perfect, in my opinion, it is far superior to the other options.

For the last 21 years I have been making regular trips to the Upper Cumberland’s to visit friends and to take in the natural beauty and recreation opportunities in the region. In 2008 my wife and I bought 35 acres of property located in Morgan County, along Clear Creek, which is part of the Obed Wild and Scenic River system. I selected the property because the vistas of the surrounding mountains are unparalleled. Also, I bought the property with the assurance that it is next to a federally protected wilderness area that will remain undisturbed in the future. We hope to someday build a home there so that we can continue to enjoy the elemental beauty and the recreational opportunities of that region.

I have driven through areas in West Virginia where the mountaintops have been removed due to strip mining. Those areas are forever blighted and unsightly because of the scars remaining on the land due to strip mining. I am asking you and your office to do whatever you can to ensure that the acres and ridgelines of the UCWMA do not share the fate of those areas where strip mining has destroyed their natural beauty.

The natural amenities of hiking, climbing, kayaking and traversing the mountains, gorges and free-flowing rivers of the Upper Cumberlands’ are what attracted us to invest in the area and draw us back time and time again. It is a beautiful area that is a paradise for nature lovers. Protecting these natural amenities in their elemental state is critical for these fragile lands. This area is rated very high for habitat and special-status species protection. We, and other like-minded people, will continue to invest in recreation, tourism and living in this wonderful part of the country.

I ask that you recognize the sustainable value of recreation and tourism in this beautiful area. As long as
To: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)
From: James Rochelle, Knoxville, TN 37902

Re: Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition

I am writing to express full support for the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition and its Alternative 4 to designate 76,133 acres and 569 miles of ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA) and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement (ERTCE) as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 is far better than the preferred Alternative 3 in the draft Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement (PED/EIS). However, both Alternative 3 and 4 do allow remining.

Remining in the petition area should be permitted only where serious environmental problems (e.g., very low pH acid mine drainage) or significant public health and safety hazards exist. In other words, the 219.5 miles of highwalls within the NCWMA / ERTCE that OSMRE identified in Alternative 4 should be largely left alone. Pre-SMCRA highwalls (before 1977) have been naturally attenuating for 40 years and are taking on the look, ecology and water resource of the native bluffs, cliffs and outcroppings common to the petition area. Remining pollutes surface water and groundwater, disturbs surface runoff, alters surface water and groundwater connections, and usually fails to eliminate highwalls due to the extent that sufficient spoil is available clause [30 CFR - 816.106 (b)(1)]. Examples of this failure exist both within and outside the petition area with examples being the former Addington Enterprises nearby Buffalo Mountain or Fork Mountain sites where second-cut and auger mining was performed and post-reclamation second-cut highwalls remain to this day.

My family moved to Oak Ridge, TN in 1971. We quickly discovered Frozen Head State Park and it became a regular family destination. Almost every time we gather together, a visit to Frozen Head is in order- most recently with 3 generations on December 30, 2015. Frozen Head is bounded on two sides by the petition area and its view shed includes many of the southern ridges of the petition area. Additionally, frequent trips with friends and out of town guest are made to Cove Lake State Park, Cumberland Trail

3127 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Alan Jasper
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate ALL ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Adam T. Savett, Esq.

I support alternative 4 with modifications. Alternative 4 would conserve the most mountain tops. The modification that we recommend is that: re-mining ONLY occur when environmental damages from previous mining MUST be corrected. The State and OSMRE would have to agree on the need to permit re-mining.

Stop raping the Earth. We have a planet in crisis, and we’re destroying it. Use the alternatives that have been known for centuries and STOP THE MADNESS!!!

I support a modified Alternative 4 to protect these areas. Protecting only 600 feet on either side of a ridgeline doesn’t seem as protective as it should be. However, if this is what we can protect at this time, I favor it. All of these lands should be designated as fragile. Eco tourism is a much better use than mining especially given the small number of employees currently involved in the industry.

Protect our mountains. Thank you.

Do not mine there!
I would like to request that the comment period be extended for 180 days to allow adequate time to review the Draft Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement (PED/EIS). It took OSM over five (5) years to review the 28 page petition submitted by the State of Tennessee and generate this 1000± page PED/EIS. Forty five days is not a reasonable time frame to review such a massive document. It should also be noted that the PED/EIS document came out 10 days prior to the Christmas Holiday, when many people are off of work spending time with family and have limited time to review such a document.

The PED/EIS states that the area should be designated unsuitable for surface coal mining operations because mining in the area would be incompatible with existing state or local land use plans or programs, specifically the 2015 TWRA Wildlife Action Plan. This plan did not exist at the time that the petition was filed in 2010 and therefore should not be considered in review of the petition. When TWRA introduced the Tackett Creek Unit of the North Cumberland WMA on November 18, 2014, TWRA included the following statement "Having been heavily surface-mined in the past and with active surface mining and reclamation efforts ongoing, the property consists of excellent habitat for grouse, turkey, deer, and elk."

During the permitting process for coal mines, comments are solicited from TWRA and representatives of TWRA have been present during pre-mine site visits in the past. I do not recall anyone from TWRA ever commenting that mining was or would be incompatible with TWRA's land use plans. The surface and mineral rights to a very large portion of the petition area were severed prior to the State of Tennessee acquiring the surface rights to the property. The agreements that severed the mineral and surface rights to the property stipulated that coal mining would continue and provided specific details as to how the mining would be dealt with in regards to the surface ownership. Any valid land use plan should recognize the rights of all property owners, surface, mineral, timber, along with oil and gas rights.

The PED/EIS states that the area should be designated unsuitable for surface coal mining operations because mining would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems. Surface mining within the petition area is limited to the acreages provided within the mineral agreements, which is less than ten percent of the property. The timber rights to the property are owned or leased by others and the decision on this petition will have little to no effect on the logging of the property. The cerulean warbler and several plants are described as valuable fish and wildlife habitat that could be significantly damaged by coal mining.

We need to protect and save animals and the environment.

I recommend alternative 4, with modifications as proposed by Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP):

Designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

Thank You

Mark L. Kirby

I am requesting that OSMRE select alternative 1 and deny this petition. I believe the petition to be unlawful, illogical and that it will destroy the coal industry in Tennessee. Furthermore, because the existing environmental problems will not be repaired the results of this petition will cause more damage to the environment than allowing continued mining.
ID 3137  Protect the Big South Fork.
3138  Please vote for Alternative 4. Thank you.
3139  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

   I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

   I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

   This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

   Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

3140  As a native East Tennessean with roots that go back to the original land grant, I am East Tennessee. When the mountaintops are removed to wring out the last bit of coal in them, our heritage is lost.

   My father's family settled Claiborne County. Coal miners were the life blood of LaFollette, TN. My college tuition was paid through work my father did in the coal industry. I am grateful for the prosperity that coal has provided my family and the people of the Cumberlands. I am grateful for these great, abundant mountains that fed so many families.

   But that prosperity is long gone, and the coal left in the mountains is scant and difficult to mine. To irreperably destroy the very mountains that nurtured us for generations is little thanks and a true insult to our people. My people.

   The mountains belong to East Tennessee - not to some out of town company that has little regard for the wounded land they leave behind. The dirty coal left to extract will not warm the homes of the Tennessee Valley. Rather it will be shipped to far off lands with little regard for the environment. The jobs are already gone. Mountaintop removal coal mining doesn't employee a strong workforce.

   Reclamation of a toppled mountain is a sad myth. Removing a mountaintop is not the equivalent of strip mining or extraction through a shaft. It is a destructive and irreversible method for very little return.

   Please save our mountains. Save what is most precious to East Tennessee.

3141  The need for thorough study of potential negative impacts to local health, environment and peoples before mining exploration is even greater today than yesterday. Our knowledge of what these practices will leave behind and the alternative new technologies available makes the reasons even more obvious.

   Please focus on the due diligence process and don't let outside influences distract from your important review of the great risks of mining this area. There is too much at stake - -

   Best Regards
To: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)
From: Nashville Chapter, Tennessee Ornithological Society
Re: Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition

The Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society would like to voice our strong support in favor of the State of Tennessee's petition to declare all the ridgelines within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and the Emory River Tracts Conservation Easement (NCWMA) as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Our members regularly join birdwatching fieldtrips into this portion of the Cumberland Mountains and it is the best place to take visiting birdwatchers to see a Cerulean Warbler.

The DEIS presents appropriate evidence to support the finding that the petition is justified on the bases that surface mining would be incompatible with the State's management plans for the NCWMA; both the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan and the Tennessee Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

The DEIS also correctly presents evidence that supports the finding that surface mining would significantly damage valuable wildlife habitat and would qualify these lands as "fragile." The NCWMA is well known among the birdwatching community and those interested in bird conservation because it harbors the best Cerulean Warbler habitat in the breeding range of this species. The Cerulean Warbler also serves as an umbrella species because protecting the mature hardwood forest required by this bird would also protect habitat for a number of other species of conservation concern as described in the DEIS. While on the face a hardwood forest doesn't appear fragile, a habitat destroyed by surface mining that can't be replaced at the end of a mining project, must be considered fragile. Although there are some current reclamation techniques that plant saplings on the "approximate original contour" slopes of mine sites, these areas would not become anything like a functioning forest for an extremely long period of time.

NTOS supports a modified version of Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative. We support this

Please keep mining out of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area. For the sake of Protecting our wildlife and water quality. I am an avid bird watcher and I contribute to local economy with my travels and hobby. I can not enjoy wildlife if their habitat has been destroyed.

Please protect these valuable lands from mining!

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jamie Burks
Please accept these comments from the Center for Biological Diversity in support of granting the state of Tennessee’s request to designate the ridgelines of the Cumberland Mountains extending to and connecting with their stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as Lands Unsuitable for Mining.

Both the ridge tops and their connecting stream corridors should be designated as unsuitable for mining because mining would cause significant damage to important scientific values and natural systems.

These lands should be designated as fragile lands due to the high level of biodiversity they support and their importance for preserving threatened, endangered, and imperiled species, because of their importance in maintaining downstream water quality and mitigating the negative effects of cumulative downstream pollution, and because of the important role they play in providing corridors for climate adaptation.

These lands are of critical importance to at least 37 species listed as federally or state endangered or threatened including the gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, Cumberland Bean, Alabama lampmussel, birdwing pearlymussel, cracking pearlymussel, Cumberland bean, Cumberlandian combshell, Cumberland elktoe, dromedary pearlymussel, fanshell, finerayed pigtoe, fluted kidneyshell, littlewing pearlymussel, orangefoot pimpleback, oyster mussel, pink mucket, purple bean, rough pigtoe, rough rabbitsfoot, sheepnose, shiny pigtoe, slabside pearlymussel, spectaclecase, tan riffleshell, Anthony’s riversnail, duskytail darter, blackside dace, spotfin chub, slender chub, Cumberland darter, yellowfin madtom, blue sucker, Cumberland sandwort, Cumberland rosemary, and Virginia spiraea.

The lands are also home to numerous imperiled species that are either under consideration for federal protection or likely to qualify for federal protection in the future including the ashy darter, redlips darter, green salamander, hellbender, Cumberland dusky salamander, Cumberland arrow darter, emerald darter, rosyface shiner, sickle darter, silverjaw minnow, tuxedo darter, valley flame crayfish, northern pinesnake, cerulean warbler, and golden-winged warbler, among others.

Because of the presence of all of these species, there’s no question that these lands are fragile lands and should be designated as such and protected from mining. They are of global biological importance.

Mountain tops need to be preserved, valley sand streams ecosystems that are important for wildlife and people. Please keep them for us and for them for now and all time! We need them, mining does not.

Let’s make sure we declare the North Cumberland Wildlife area unsuitable for mining.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in state and local tax benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sirs:

I support the petition to declare NCWMA as Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining. In particular, I support alternative 4 with the modification that re-mining be allowed ONLY if and when environmental damages left by earlier mining are corrected.

As background for my opinion, I wish to state that I am a professional geologist, I have worked in mining, and I have visited many coal mining sites (both active and abandoned) in Tennessee and am all too familiar with the environmental and social degradation caused by coal mining in Appalachia.

Coal is a fuel of the past. The environmental destruction caused by coal mining is notorious; of all forms of coal mining mountaintop removal is the very worst; it should not be permitted in our state in any form. The mining of coal brings temporary jobs, but permanent damage to our environment and the communities in the mining areas. Rather than clinging to the dying coal industry, Tennessee should be looking to the future- - development of solar and wind energy sources should be promoted. And Tennessee's tourism industry, far more valuable than coal extraction, depends on keeping Tennessee's scenic mountains intact.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Finch, PhD
Professor of Geology, TTU (retired)

The legacy from mining and clear cutting the Cumberland Plateau will be long lasting. Generations long after we are gone will be left to wonder why we destroyed our own home? I don't want strip mining to continue anywhere in the state of TN. We need to be thinking far into the future when we make these important decisions. Too often we opt for the short term answer.

This is simply a case of myopic views in energy production. Look to spend the budget towards renewable energy instead of non-progressive, eco-detrimental, backward thinking, strip mining. Thanks for your time and review.
Surface coal mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and, Surface coal mining operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

I write on behalf of Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, an Oak Ridge-based statewide environmental-advocacy organization. This year, TCWP is proud to be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Much of our work over the decades has been dedicated to protecting the natural resources of the Cumberland Mountains.

We were very much involved in the establishment of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (BSFNRA), Frozen Head State Park, and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. Our interest and concern in these world-class areas is clearly evident in continued TCWP-sponsored outings and informational programs along with active participation in various habitat management meetings and processes for these stunningly scenic and biodiverse regions.

The North Cumberlands Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement are home to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic features. People who hike, paddle, camp, birdwatch, swim, sightsee, hunt, and otherwise healthfully recreate are drawn to the beauty and solitude of the area. Creatures both terrestrial and aquatic thrive in the habitat, which is successfully recovering from mining damage inflicted decades ago. We agree with OSMRE's conclusion that the petition area provides valuable habitat for fish and wildlife, and that the area is qualified as fragile lands that could be significantly damaged by strip mining.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) erroneously concludes that mining in the petition area "would not likely significantly damage resources" within the BSFNRA, and thus rejects classifying BSFNRA as fragile lands. OSMRE's conclusion is based on the fact that the Park is located approximately 20 river miles downstream from the Petition Area. There is, however, much published evidence that variables other than distance to upstream mining (e.g., conductance, dissolved metals, coal geology) are more significant in predicting where quantifiable impacts on water quality and on resources of concern (e.g., endangered mussels) could occur. The BSFNRA should thus be considered fragile lands.

We applaud the state of Tennessee for its wise conservation of these incomparable mountain ridges through the petition, and we thank the OSMRE for its use of technology to further define the ridgetops. We endorse Alternative 4, and urge special attention to re-mining. Any re-mining in this fragile area would greatly affect the breeding productivity of the endangered Cerulean Warbler, which is declining at an alarming rate, and is one of Tennessee's most cherished birds.

Thank you,

Jan Shaw
Dear Messrs. Pizarchik and Bandy:

The following organizations are Intervenors in support of the State of Tennessee's petition to designate certain lands within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tracts Conservation Easement as unsuitable for surface coal mining: National Parks Conservation Association; Defenders of Wildlife; the National Audubon Society, Warioto Chapter; Natural Resources Defense Council; Tennessee Environmental Council; Tennessee Ornithological Society; and Sierra Club and its Tennessee Chapter. Intervenors submit these comments on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's ("OSM") Draft Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement OSM-EIS-37 ("PED/EIS") for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area ("NCWMA"). Intervenors address four main points:

Surface Mining Would Be Incompatible with the State of Tennessee's Plans and Programs

First, we agree with the conclusion in the PED/EIS that surface coal mining operations would be incompatible with the 2015 Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan and Tennessee's 2005 Comprehensive...
I write in support of maximum protection of the fragile natural resources of the North Cumberland Mountains. For more than 35 years I have explored and enjoyed the beautiful natural resources of this area. I spend most of my weekends visiting the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Frozen Head State Park, Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area, Sundquist Wildlife Management Area, and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. My interest and concern in these world-class areas is clearly evident in continued exploration of this area along with active participation with local conservation efforts related to sound habitat management and processes that protect these stunningly scenic and biodiverse regions.

The North Cumberland Mountains and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement are home to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic features. People who hike, paddle, camp, birdwatch, swim, sightsee, hunt, and otherwise recreate are drawn to the beauty and solitude of this unique area. Creatures both terrestrial and aquatic thrive in the habitat, which is successfully recovering from mining damage inflicted decades ago by surface mining in the area. I agree with OSM's conclusion that the petition area provides valuable habitat for sensitive aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and habitats, and that the area is qualified as fragile lands that could be significantly damaged by strip mining.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) erroneously applied a study and therefore cannot unilaterally conclude that Big South Fork will not be impacted by upstream mining. That study did not deal with the quantifiable major pollutants at the Big South Fork including the deleterious effects of siltation and suspended solids on aquatic life in these rivers and streams, or the particular resources of concern including rare, threatened, or endangered fish and mussels.

I applaud the state of Tennessee for its wise conservation of these incomparable mountain tops through the state's petition and I thank the OSMRE for its use of technology to further define the ridgetops. I endorse Alternative 4, and urge special attention to remining. Any remining in this fragile area otherwise deemed unsuitable for mining should be approved only by consensus among all the applicable state and federal agencies.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment.
Dear Mr. Bandy,

I am submitting the following comments re: Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement.

First, let me extend praise for you and your team and your sincere and devoted effort to make the public at large aware of the hearings. I attended the public hearing in Clinton, and I cannot imagine a hearing running any smoother. The information and establishment of guidelines allowed a thorough cross-section of opinion in a respectful and efficient manner. I also appreciate the materials you distributed.

Regarding the Petition: Anderson County represents the epitome of diverse energy production. We have a rich coal mining history, of course, but the county is also home to hundreds of oil and gas wells, the first Tennessee Valley Authority dam and the nuclear energy research of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Every one of these energy sources contribute greatly to the wealth and prosperity, not only of Anderson County, but to the region, state, country and world. In fact, it was energy-Norris Dam and the nuclear legacy of Oak Ridge—that changed our county forever.

Like our history suggests, our community has long supported all-of-the-above energy policy. This position includes and embraces coal. However, granting the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition as proposed by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) would inhibit our ability to conduct mining on more than 7,700 acres within our county. This acreage not only encompasses a large amount of coal reserves but also represents hundreds of jobs and tens of thousands of dollars of severance taxes. According to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Anderson County has collected more than $780,000 in taxes since 2010. These collections go to support our county school and highway systems and are an important part of our budget.

Coal mining has also positively contributed to some of Anderson County’s most frequented tourism sites, specifically the Coal Creek Company’s WindRock Park Trails. The 72,000 acres of trails host hundreds of ATV, motorcycles, bike and other off-road vehicle riders every weekend. Many of these trails appear on reclaimed surface mines and the development was made economically feasible by the access and haul roads built by the mining companies. Examples like WindRock prove that coal mining and tourism

Please stop mining the mountain tops. It is unsightly, causes erosion, and dangerous to people in the valleys. Surely, there is another way.

Mountain Top removable DESTROYS our beautiful forests and mountains only for the sake of GREED and more money for "the man". It destroys families, vegetation, and every water source around.

Everything is left barren and polluted for miles, which causes people to have prolonged health issues and no decent health coverage.

This always happens in these pockets of poverty, but just let them try doing this near a very affluent neighborhood!!!

So, I say not just NO. I will say HELL NO!!!🚫🚫🚫🚫🚫🚫

I support the state of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining, covering all ridgelines extending to & connecting with stream corridors.

I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: That any re-mining of old sites should ONLY be approved in the limited cases where OSMRE & the state of Tennessee agree that the safety & environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will serve to protect the land, wildlife & quality of the area around the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area & the headwaters of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, & provide the people with the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation & tourism based economy for the future. These mountains can & should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Thomas Talbot
It's time to ban ridge top mining in the North Cumberlands.

Surface coal-mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and they would affect fragile lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and natural systems.

The majority of the ridgeline to be designated is located in the headwaters of the Big South Fork, so protection would benefit the park's water resources. Additionally, the North Cumberland Mountains contain natural treasures such as a 40' tall waterfalls, mountain tops over 3,000', and headwater streams. The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands." Headwater sources are essential to downstream viability.

Coal mining was the primary cause of decline for 33 of the 34 aquatic special-status species known to occur in the evaluation area. We already know it's the wrong thing to do in this location.

Recreation and tourism are a better use of this area for the economic future of the region. Travel and tourism-related expenditures in the four-county area in a recent year supported 1,420 jobs as well as $10.4 M and $6.0 M, respectively, in state and local tax receipts.

Alternative 4 with a modification most closely accomplishes the State's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgeline corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. The modification to Alternative 4 should state that re-mining is limited to sites at which, by consensus between the State and OSMRE, safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damages inflicted by the procedure.

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Diana Greenhalgh

Please end the destructive practice of mountain top removal.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I feel strongly about protecting the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and that this can best be done by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

James Field

As those who use our land do not leave it as they found it they should loose the right to use it.

Earth must be protected and we all must leave the smallest footprints as possible!

Having seen the destruction in parts of Tennessee and a great portion of Kentucky, I believe all scenic mountains should be off limit to mountain top and strip mining.

Thanks,

Kent Coppock

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Ruth Kelley
Surface Mining Would Be Incompatible with the State of Tennessee's Plans and Programs

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) agrees with the conclusion in the PED/EIS that surface coal mining operations would be incompatible with the 2015 Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan and Tennessee's 2005 Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. PED/EIS, Vol. 1, Exec. Summary at v. Accordingly, the petition area should be designated as unsuitable for surface coal mining under § 522(a)(3)(A) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act ("SMCRA"), 30 U.S.C. § 1272 (a)(3)(A), and under 30 C.F.R. § 762.11(b)(1). As discussed below, however, Intervenors disagree with OSM's conclusion that surface coal mining in the petition area is not incompatible with the other plans or programs that the State of Tennessee has identified. Given the unique position of the petitioner, it should fall to the State to interpret its own plans and programs in the first instance.

On page 2-13 of the PED/EIS, OSM notes that "neither SMCRA nor its implementing regulations define 'existing state or local land use plans or programs'" and then proceeds to design a restrictive definition for the terms that is inconsistent with the legislative history of SMCRA found on OSM's own web page (appended) which concludes that "almost any governmental land use policy (should) be considered in the area to be reviewed for unsuitability for surface coal mining." Accordingly, we believe that OSM's narrow focus on "officially adopted or formally proposed draft" plans unreasonably restricts consideration of the other State programs described by the State in their petition.

The Petition Area Qualifies As Fragile Lands

Second, OSM needs to clarify and confirm that the State of Tennessee has established that the petition area qualifies as "fragile lands" that could be significantly damaged by surface mining under 30 C.F.R. §§ 762.5, 762.11(b)(2). The PED/EIS provides: "Given the record related to the cerulean warbler, Ozark bunchflower, and pale corydalis, the OSMRE has concluded that the petition area provides valuable habitat for fish and wildlife. In addition, this habitat could be significantly damaged by surface coal mining operations, thus qualifying it as fragile lands." PED/EIS, Vol. 1, Chapter 2, page 2-33.

Other statements in the document could be viewed as inconsistent with that conclusion, however, as some commenters noted during the public hearing process. Consequently, the PED/EIS should clearly state, as was clarified by OSM personnel during the public hearings, that OSM's overall conclusion is that the petition area does qualify as fragile lands that could be significantly damaged by surface coal mining operations. In particular, the final sentence of Chapter 2 should likely be removed or substantively clarified and further, it would be helpful for the final document to include a heading entitled "Conclusion"

The earth is our home. Let us Protect and preserve it.

We at Triple H Coal, LLC, own the mineral rights of what is referred to as the Sundquist Unit of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. We also operate a surface coal mine on the property. We are a small family owned business that has worked very hard to acquire the mineral rights to this property. We purchased the property (mineral rights) based upon the sales agreements in place and have tried to abide by the agreements. We believe that the State of Tennessee should honor their side of the agreement as well. We have worked with TWRA in maintaining the roads on the property including the road to the elk viewing tower. As mentioned above, we operator a small surface mine on the property which is below the Elk Viewing Tower and we routinely find the elk herd grazing on the reclaimed portion of the mine site and drinking from our ponds. We won the ARRI reclamation award for the reclamation work that we have done at our mine site.

We object to the lands unsuitable for mining petition that was filed by the State of Tennessee on our property. TWRA has been out on our mine site on several occasions and they have never told us that our mining was incompatible with their plans. The elk viewing tower is also built on an old reclaimed mine.

This petition has held up progress on our property for five years while being reviewed by the Office of Surface Mining. We have yet to be compensated for our losses due to this petition and if the petition is granted, we expect to be paid for our coal that will not longer be mineable.

We request that the Office of Surface Mining choose Alternate 1 and deny this petition.
I support Alternative 4 with one critical modification: limiting re-mining. Surface mining is destructive, we need to protect mountain ridgelines, and clearly improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region.

Sincerely, Shirley McCarthy, MD, PhD

January 23, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the North Cumberland Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition that is open for comment. I was born and raised in WVA and my husband grew up in upstate New York, and after having lived and served in the military in Fayetteville NC for several years we knew we wanted to come to a place that reminded us of home, TN came very close to that feeling. We moved here 23 years ago with our two children and later had our third child. Over these years we have watched our community change with bringing in a chip mill that allowed for clearcutting, businesses and factories closing and drugs overtaking our young that it is has lost much of what brought us here but it still has the beauty that is undeniable. The Cumberland Trail provides a great opportunity to share our amazing natural resources but nobody wants to hike through a viewshed past destroyed land with polluted water.

I have been fortunate to work in a community that has seen the boom of coal mining as well as the decline, we have been talking for several years about “what after coal” and that time is now. Coal mining has not benefited families in our community for years but for some reason there are some people who believe coal mining is the answer to turn around our economy, this is no longer true. Coal companies employ very few individual, resources are removed from the community and leaves behind the devastation. Unlike Tourism is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. Visitors to the four counties spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is far more important than mining to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

On behalf of my family we ask that you strongly support the lands unsuitable designation area should cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. This will provide the best protection for the land and water quality. Thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Tonia L Brookman
Mr. Earl Bandy, Jr.
Field Office Director Office of Surface Mining
Reclamation and Enforcement
John J. Duncan Federal Building
710 Locust Street, 2nd Floor
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902


Dear Mr. Bandy:

On behalf of the Tennessee Mining Association (TMA), we are submitting the following comments in regard to the Draft Petition Evaluation Document and Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) in connection with the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. TMA is a not-for-profit organization whose members own mineral rights in the area covered by the Petition. Furthermore, TMA represents various other entities that will be negatively affected by limitations in surface mining, including engineers, equipment suppliers, and other service providers. TMA was granted intervention status for the Petition.

As the representative of mineral owners within the petition area, TMA remains vehemently opposed to granting this Petition under any circumstances. TMA maintains its argument that the Petition is a gross misuse of the lands unsuitable process due to its sheer size, vagueness and overly broad geographic scope. Furthermore, the Petition interferes with and/or impairs obligations in contracts between the owners of the mineral and surface estates and impairs longstanding contractual obligations between the State of Tennessee and mineral owners. The Petition did not and cannot meet the well-established

3179 Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. This is so important for the watershed.

Alternative 4 is the best option but with an added provision that re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This beautiful land can be a place that insures protection for the plants and animals, the land and the watershed. Clean water is becoming the key issue to ensure sustainable This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Sexton
I support limiting or eliminating mining the mountain tops in Tennessee.

I was born in East Tennessee, but I have lived in several flat states. I am happy to be back in our mountains that define our topography, our history, our culture and our state. I value the health of our streams and the beauty of our undulating horizons. Please do not mine our mountains.

Glenda Ross
2405 Ashbridge Lane
Knoxville, TN 37932

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridge-lines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridge-lines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Sean Colburn
Marlborough, NH
As a field assistant I spent years in the area now part of the North Cumberland WMA helping with research on both the Golden-winged and Cerulean Warbler (CERW). I was excited to learn about the proposal that the State of Tennessee had made that would declare the ridgelines in this area as "unsuitable for surface coal mining!" The petition would protect the very ridges I'd spent so much time struggling to climb up and down.

I read the section of the DEIS pertaining to birds and was pleased with the number of studies cited pertaining to the CERW, and especially pleased that it was concluded that CERW habitat was "too fragile" to be mined. I would never have thought of a mature forest as fragile, but if a surface mining operation has removed a forest from a ridgeline and then can't replace it when the mining has been completed, then a mature forest would have to be considered fragile! I have visited many many mine sites that were post-SMCRA that were likely 20 years old. The only trees growing there were scattered black locust and maybe a few sprouting maples. Nothing you could call a "forest" would perhaps ever grow there again. There are some new reclamation methods that don't hard-pack the ground material (I wouldn't call it soil) and replant trees, even American chestnut. This is an excellent experiment but still those saplings won't become a forest for generations. There are 100s, if not 1,000s of acres of previously mine lands that would need a similar treatment to try and reestablish forests but the cost of going back and planting trees would be astronomical.

I read the 6 alternatives that were offered in the DEIS. I was surprised that Alternative 3 was chosen when Alternative 4 clearly would protect more miles of ridgelines. If the state's intention is to protect the ridgelines and better technology was able to more accurately measure the amount of ridgelines the state describes wanting to be protected, then why wouldn't Alternative 4 have been selected as the preferred alternative?

The provision that would allow remining of previously mined sites included in both Alternatives 3 and 4 disturbs me. Depending how the need for remining for safety or environmental benefits is interpreted, a case could be made that would allow a few sites or many sites to qualify as needing remining. I feel very strongly that remining should be highly examined within the protected area and a vigorous review process put in place that would involve several agencies that would all have to agree that any given proposal would do more public good than public harm because of the destruction cause by mining.
This is a formal comment on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's ("OSMRE") Draft Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement OSM-EIS-37 ("PED/EIS") for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area ("NCWMA").

This comment is submitted by the, Energy, Ecology and Environmental Justice (E3) Committee of Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (SOCM).

SOCM is a 43-year-old grassroots group formed by residents in rural East Tennessee counties. SOCM's earliest mission was to improve the quality of life in the coalfield communities of our members and their families. Part of that mission was to ensure local residents had a say in the decisions that affect their lands, their water and homes, and their lives.

SOCM appreciates the work that OSMRE has put into writing the draft PED/EIS. Tourism is far more important than mining to the current and future economy of Tennessee, and this petition offers a great opportunity to our members and citizens of Tennessee.

SOCM strongly supports the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. The LUM designation must be implemented with strong, clear, and enforceable language that would facilitate robust protection of the lands in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emery River Tract Conservation Easement.

Our careful review of this petition has found several areas of concern. Our proposals to remedy these concerns include:

1) The LUM designation should cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. This will provide the best protection for land and water quality and would more fully represent the clear intention of the State of Tennessee when it filed this petition.

2) The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement should utilize the best possible

Several things strike me as wrong with the exist as well as the preferred plans for the Lands Unsuitable for Mining petition. My first concern is that this seems to be a way for the state to justify seizing the property of individuals and companies who own the mineral rights to the properties affected. How can OSM justify allowing the State of Tennessee to do something that contradicts legal agreements that the state has signed. such as the right to mine the property the state is now in control of. By allowing this to happen I would think that both the state and the federal governments would or could be found (for lack of a better term) in "breach of contract". My second problem with the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition is how the areas designated as ridges has been annotated. By definition a ridge is: "a long, narrow elevation of land; a chain of hills or mountains." It appears that you have included quite a lot of areas running down off the ridge lines almost into the streams along the hollow or valley. If the ridge is the top of a chain of mountains of hills, how can your depiction run all the way to the hollow or valley. Although this may seem like a minor point of contention, it will make a huge difference to the miners attempting to extract their minerals. The most expensive part of contour mining is the initial cut. The manor in which your ridge lines run, an initial cut will have to be made every time the miners skip these areas. It appears to me that what you have proposed is no different than saying "No new mining can occur across any of the lands controlled by the state. Both would have the same effect.
The Big South Fork NRRA is one of my favorite hiking locations. I routinely plan hikes to this area to introduce others to this spectacular area. Although I respect the past history of this being an area where coal was mined, coal is no longer the fuel of choice. We need to protect the fragile environment of this area and all the ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. If we allow mining on these ridgelines, we will impact the streams as well as the view sheds. This area was damaged years ago and now needs to be allowed to continue to heal. We do not need to restart the damage from mining either in new areas or in previously mined areas.

The time for ridgeline strip mining in Tennessee is gone. Scars from this business adversely affect residents, travellers, hikers, species (both endangered and not), and every being downstream from the inevitably damaged watershed. Visually apparent on google earth, the practice of ridgeline strip mining is contrary to world-wide scientific agreement that climate change is man-made and carbon should no longer be combusted, or even removed from the ground, especially in areas where the forest provides critical habitat and carbon sequestration.

I support alternative #4 while regretting that mining might need to be done to repair past damage.

To the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

I ask you to hold as a top priority maintaining the beauty and wildlife habitat of the mountain ridges of Tennessee. Specifically, I support alternative 4, to preserve 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, and limiting the re-mining of old sites in the protected zone. This will protect the headwaters of the Bog South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

It is time for the mining industry to invest in alternative energy sources, which will produce power without damaging the environment. This will create jobs and prove to be successful in the long term.

Sincerely,

Victoria Adams
Dear Mr. Bandy:

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) appreciates the opportunity afforded by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) to review and comment on the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft Environmental Impact Statement. TVA supports the State of Tennessee’s Petition resulting in OSMRE’s proposal to designate certain lands within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for mining (Lands Unsuitable for Mining).

While TVA currently does not utilize this area for its fuel sourcing, this analysis supports an appropriate differentiation between extraction (including re-mining coupled with restoration) and preservation.

TVA appreciates the opportunity to comment. If you should have any questions, please contact Travis Hill Henry at (865) 632-6360.

Sincerely,

Brenda E. Brickhouse
Vice President
Environment and Energy Policy

I am really opposed to mountaintop mining.
To: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)
From: Richard Connors

Re: Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition

I am a hiker and a photographer and a birdwatcher and I was very surprised and pleased what the State of Tennessee has petitioned OSM to have the ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area declared as unsuitable for surface coal mining. I was also pleased that habitat for forest-dependent birds, especially the Cerulean Warbler, were specifically included as justification for why this area needs protection. I support the state’s description of the ridgelines corridors connecting with stream corridors because that continuity of habitat is important to species that migrate up and downslope seasonally, as well as those that use these ridgelines for dispersal. Another reason these ridgelines need to connect with stream corridors is to protect all types of Cerulean Warbler habitat. These birds not only use ridgetops but also use forested riparian corridors.

I reviewed the alternative actions the OSM could take in response to the petition and I support Alternative 4 over Alternative 3 (the preferred alternative) because it protects more of the ridgelines the State wants protected. But, an important provision I want added to either Alternative 4 or 3 is that any remining permit application would need to be highly scrutinized. Remining will have similar negative impacts as the original mining and should only be allowed when OSM and the State agree that remining is essential to the health and safety of the public. Remining should be a rare event and allowed only when there is a problem so great that only remining can remedy the situation.

The economic value of the coal has plummeted and the number of coal related jobs are few, however the damage caused by coal mining is enormous. Tourism is a better use for our mountains and they can be enjoyed for all of time.

Please approve the petition and choose ALTERNATIVE 4 as the preferred alternative and make remining approval highly scrutinized and rare.

I believe public and sensitive land in Tennessee should be unavailable to high-elevation, surface coal mining.

I would like to add to an early comment I posted this afternoon. I would like to see Alternative 4 be the preferred alternative, and I want to see the state and OSM give permission if remaining permits were required.

I have been a member of TOS for 5 years, I moved here from Kansas because the rich natural beauty that Tennessee has to offer. I hope for my sake, wildlife sake, and for the sake of everyones children and grandchildren, we can come to agree on the least damaging alternative which is alternative 4.
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<tr>
<th>ID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3193</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.</td>
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<td>I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.</td>
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<td>This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.</td>
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<td>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>William Rhoten, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>3194</td>
<td>I support alternative 4 with modifications. Alternative 4 would conserve the most mountain tops. The modification that we recommend is that: re-mining ONLY occur when environmental damages from previous mining MUST be corrected. The State and OSMRE would have to agree on the need to permit re-mining.</td>
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<td>3195</td>
<td>I support alternative 4 with modifications. Alternative 4 would conserve the most mountain tops. The modification that we recommend is that: re-mining ONLY occur when environmental damages from previous mining MUST be corrected. The State and OSMRE would have to agree on the need to permit re-mining.</td>
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<td>3196</td>
<td>I strongly support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement- -that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Thank you for your attention to this matter!!</td>
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<td>3197</td>
<td>Unsuitable</td>
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<td>3198</td>
<td>Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sincerely, Rick Ray</td>
</tr>
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| 3199| Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer, I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining. This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. |
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I've camped and hiked in the Tennessee mountains, and I support protection of Big South Fork headwaters.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Jim Boone

I am very much interested in protecting the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and feel that this can best be done by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Meghan Houston

As the designated representative of the Cumberland River Compact I am writing in support of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition, Alternative 4.

Our organization's mission is to enhance the health and enjoyment of the Cumberland River and its tributaries. The ridge lines to be designated in this LUM are in the headwaters of the Big South Fork watershed, an area of special concern to many Tennesseans. Their protection would benefit the park's water resources. Additionally, the North Cumberland Mountains contain natural treasures such as a 40' tall waterfalls, mountain tops over 3,000', and headwater streams. This region (the Cumberland, Tennessee and Mobile Bay Basin) is home to more biodiversity than any other inland region on the continent. It is this great ecological blessing that will bring area residents their greatest economic growth as eco-tourism revenue begins to outpace other sources of revenue.
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Matthew DeMars</td>
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<td>3206</td>
<td>Protect Big South Fork!</td>
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<td>3208</td>
<td>Save the land</td>
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<td>3209</td>
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<td>Sincerely,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Andrew Dunne</td>
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Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

As a 7th generation Tennessean and former volunteer with LEAF (Lindquist Environmental Appalachian Fellowship), I'm supportive of any measures we can take to protect our Tennessee mountains. From an environmental and economic (tourism) perspective, this petition makes sense. Thank you.

I have reviewed the LUM Petition document and encourage OSMRE to adopt Alternative 4 with a modification that remining only be allowed when environmental damages resulting from previous mining operations must be corrected. This alternative will protect and safeguard over 76,000 acres of ridgetops. Protecting these mountains is essential to maintaining the quality of numerous headwater creeks and Tennessee's overall environmental quality.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Patricia Gonzalez

Please protect the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area. I support the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

I feel strongly about protecting the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area and that this can best be done by supporting the State of Tennessee's petition to designate the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. This petition would withdraw more than 76,000 acres from surface mining, protect mountain ridgelines, and improve wildlife habitat and water quality in the region. I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Frances Field

God bless American! keep American free.
3218  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Regards,

Rachel

3219  As a Tennessean born and bred I support Alternative 4 (the preferred plan), which designates 569 miles of ridgeline as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, with one crucial improvement - that re-mining of old sites in the protected area should be approved only in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by the process. With this improvement, Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Thank you.

3220  Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Shannon Twist
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<th>ID</th>
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<tr>
<td>3221</td>
<td>I strongly support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. The lands unsuitable designation area should cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors. This will provide the best protection for the land and water quality. This represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.</td>
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<td>In addition, the Office of Surface Mining should use the best possible science and technology to identify all the ridgelines in the petition area. Alternative 4 would protect the most land area and is closest to the state's intent that &quot;all ridgelines&quot; be protected. Remining of old sites must be limited, however, and should only occur where both the state (TDEC and TWRA) and the Office of Surface Mining agree that there are significant environmental problems that can only be fixed by remining.</td>
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<td>It is important that we preserve this area for the economic future of the state. Tourism is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. Visitors to the four counties in the proposed protection area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and more than $16 million in local and state tax receipts. Tourism is far more important than mining to the current and future economy of Tennessee, and the Cumberland Trail provides a great opportunity to share the state's amazing natural resources.</td>
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|     | The entire petition area should be designated as "Fragile Lands," because:  
- The area is rated "very high" for habitat protection.  
- Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species. Mining is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.  
- We need to account for the impact on species living downstream of the petition area.  
- The Office of Surface Mining's draft Environmental Impact Statement determined that the petition area contains natural resources that meet the "Fragile Lands" definition. |
|     | Thank you for standing up for the health of the mountains, wildlife, and people of Tennessee. |
The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) Draft Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining (Draft PED/EIS). TDEC strives to protect and improve the quality of Tennessee's air, land, and water through a responsible regulatory system; conserve and promote natural, cultural and historic resources; and provide quality outdoor recreational experiences to citizens and visitors. As the chief environmental regulatory and natural resource agency in Tennessee, TDEC takes its role as an environmental steward seriously, and we are immensely proud of the extraordinary outdoor recreation opportunities and natural resource features that the state provides. It is through this lens that TDEC offers its comments on the Draft PED/EIS.

The Draft PED/EIS was developed in response to a petition to designate certain lands in the State as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations, filed by the State of Tennessee with OSMRE on September 30, 2010. These lands include the area within 600 feet of all ridgelines lying within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA), comprised of the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area, the Sundquist Wildlife Management Area, and the New River Wildlife Management Area (also known as the Brimstone Tract Conservation Easement), and the Emory River Tracts Conservation Easement (ERTCE), encompassing approximately 67,326 acres. The 2010 petition includes two primary allegations: (1) the petition area should be designated unsuitable for surface coal mining operations because surface coal mining in the area would be incompatible with existing state or local land use plans or programs; and (2) the petition area should be designated as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations because such operations would affect fragile or historic lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

In response to primary allegation (1) in the State of Tennessee's petition, the OSMRE concludes that surface coal mining operations would be incompatible with the 2015 Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan and Tennessee's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (TWRA 2005). However, the OSMRE also concludes that surface coal mining is not inherently inconsistent with other statewide plans, including the "Connecting the Cumberlands" project, Tennessee 2020, and the 2008 Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan. Finally, the OSMRE has concluded that the draft plans for the Royal Blue...
The following organizations are Intervenors in support of the State of Tennessee’s petition to designate certain lands within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tracts Conservation Easement as unsuitable for surface coal mining: National Parks Conservation Association; Defenders of Wildlife; the National Audubon Society, Warioto Chapter; Natural Resources Defense Council; Tennessee Environmental Council; Tennessee Ornithological Society; and Sierra Club and its Tennessee Chapter. Intervenors submit these comments on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s (“OSM”) Draft Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement OSM-EIS-37 (“PED/EIS”) for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (“NCWMA”). Intervenors address four main points:

1. **Surface Mining Would Be Incompatible with the State of Tennessee’s Plans and Programs**

   First, we agree with the conclusion in the PED/EIS that surface coal mining operations would be incompatible with the 2015 Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan and Tennessee’s 2005 Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. PED/EIS, Vol. 1, Exec. Summary at v. Accordingly, the petition area should be designated as unsuitable for surface coal mining under § 522(a)(3)(A) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (“SMCRA”), 30 U.S.C. § 1272 (a)(3)(A), and under 30 C.F.R. § 762.11(b)(1). As discussed below, however, Intervenors disagree with OSM’s conclusion that surface coal mining in the petition area is not incompatible with the other plans or programs that the State of Tennessee has identified. Given the unique position of the petitioner, it should fall to the State to interpret its own plans and programs in the first instance.

   On page 2-13 of the PED/EIS, OSM notes that "neither SMCRA nor its implementing regulations define 'existing state or local land use plans or programs'" and then proceeds to design a restrictive definition for the terms that is inconsistent with the legislative history of for surface coal mining." Accordingly, we believe that OSM’s narrow focus on "officially adopted or formally proposed draft" plans unreasonably restricts consideration of the other State programs described by the State in their petition.

2. **The Petition Area Qualifies As Fragile Lands**

   Second, OSM needs to clarify and confirm that the State of Tennessee has established that the petition
Please accept these comments from Sierra Club on behalf of our members on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's (OSMRE) Draft Petition Evaluation Document / Environmental Impact Statement (PED/EIS) for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA).

I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that “all ridge lines” in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

The entire petition area should be designated as "Fragile Lands," because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated “very high” for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous
I. Ridge Line corridor mapping for Alternative 3 and Alternative 4

The intent of Tennessee’s Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) Petition is to protect 1,200 ft. ridge line corridors on the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA) and the Emory River Track Conservation Easement (ERTCE). Ridge line corridors as mapped in the state’s petition are designed to descend to and connect with riparian stream corridors as occur on the NCWMA and ERTCE. Unified ecological corridors are intended to support the goals of both the 2015 Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan and Tennessee’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (TWRA 2005). The connected corridors are designed to protect valuable aquatic and terrestrial habitats and the animal and plant species they support. In preparing the LUM Petition, the State utilized the best information available at that time, including mapping from the State’s Geographic Information System (GIS) and printed quadrangle maps prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

During the process of evaluating the LUM Petition, OSMRE had the opportunity to employ state of the art mapping technology that was unavailable to the State. This technology, which goes by the term LiDar, utilizes laser light emission and radar capture to map land surface features. LiDar is employed by flying over the area to be mapped and using resulting imagery to produce computer-generated maps. Utilizing this new technology, OSMRE identified an additional sixty-four (64) miles of ridge lines as compared to the State’s ridge line mapping. To be clear, Tennessee has no objection to utilizing LiDar technology to produce the most accurate ridge line maps.

In OSMRE Alternative 4, an additional 64 miles of LiDar identified ridge lines have been added to the petition area. TWRA supports Alternative 4 as proposed. TWRA has no objection to Alternative 3.

II. Assessment of the impact of Alternatives on surface streams and aquatic ecology

OSMRE incorporates a study from West Virginia entitled "Landscape indicators and thresholds of stream ecological impairment in an intensively mined Appalachia watershed" by Petty et al. (2010) into consideration of the extent of adverse aquatic ecological impact from current and future mining in the
ID Correspondence
3226 Extractive industries are characterized by boom and bust cycles for local communities as they move away from a location as the resource that can be economically extracted with available technology becomes exhausted. This is especially true with the coal industry. The land currently owned by the State of Tennessee and known as the Upper Cumberland Wildlife Management Area is bracing for the 3rd boom and bust cycle that has enormous implications for the region's economies and environmental quality.

First boom - The industrial revolution in the late 19th century led to the dawn of industrial coal mining employing the technology of deep mining. The legal invention of sub-surface mineral estates (commonly referred to as mineral rights) spurred by land speculators after the Civil War greatly reduces the cost of these speculative investments and aided the development of industrial coal mining. Deep mining is hard, dangerous work that was sometimes performed with forced labor like in the 1890's at Coal Creek Tennessee and other places when prison convicts were leased out by the State of Tennessee to mining companies. Decline in profitability of extraction from the mostly thin seams accessible by deep-mine methods in Tennessee and the Great Depression resulted in the first bust in the early 20th century. Coal Companies gave and sold land at basement prices to the State of Tennessee since they did not want to be responsible for fire control after logging or for their restoration to sustainable use. Many state forests (Pickett, Lone Mountain) were established and scientific principles were developed and used to guide the revegetation of these damaged lands and provide jobs for the logging industry using the renewable resource of trees. Areas with particularly valuable ecological and scenic resources have been elevated to specially protected State Parks (Pickett and Frozen Head State Parks, both reclaimed by the Federal CCC Program for benefit to the economies of surrounding counties and the State of Tennessee) and Wildlife Management Areas for the restoration of wildlife resources (Catoosa WMA).

Second Boom - In the 1930 the Federal Government, TVA in particular, came to the Tennessee Valley, starting with the building of Norris Dam. Coal Creek changed it's

3227 I hope that this email finds you doing well. I attended the public meeting (but did not speak) at Campbell County High School on January 14 for comment on the proposed plans dealing with the protection of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area and other mining areas in the region. I wanted to send my comments in as your office considers the six options that were mentioned at that meeting. I wanted to make sure that I got my comments in before tomorrow's deadline.

I live and work just north of the impacted area, and I am strongly in favor of option #4, the option set forth by the state of Tennessee that will protect the most land. I think that option will be in the best interest of the area, especially as we look forward to some other economic options that will benefit both the people and the environment of the area.

3228 To Whom It May Concern:

This is in response to the public hearing held concerning the petition filed by Gov. Phil Bredesen in 2010 requesting a 1200 foot corridor be declared in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations. Of the alternatives presented in the draft PED/EIS, I urge adoption of Alternative 4 which protects the largest number of acres. A second choice would be Alternative 3.

I live in Morgan County close to the Emory River. My drinking water comes from the Emory. Much of the beauty of our lives comes from the beautiful mountain tops, which I hope will be unspoiled.
would like to thank you and Mr. Bandy for your guidance (and patience) at the recent public hearings on the NCWMA lands unsuitable for surface mining (LUM) petition. I approached you at both the Wartburg and the Clinton public hearings asking for clarification of OSM's position on the state's allegation that the NCWMA petition area be designated as "fragile lands". Your input has been very helpful in my understanding of the final determinations.

Please correct me if I am still misunderstanding the findings.

As you recommended, I reviewed the details of your analyses of the state's allegations (Vol. 1, Chapter 2) and, I am glad to say, I think I finally understand OSMRE's positions. As I mentioned to you and several other OSMRE staff and/or contractors, a majority of the people participating in the public meetings apparently thought OSMRE was rejecting the petitioners' "fragile lands" allegation. I believe this misunderstanding is primarily due to the last sentence, underlined and bracketed below, in the "Conclusion" section of the document. Incidentally, removing the last sentence will also remove the typographical citation error 30 CFR § 762.10.

I respectfully suggest that the following changes to the "Conclusion" sections would clarify the apparent misunderstandings:

1) Remove the last sentence (underlined and bracketed below).
2) Add the additional critical habitats portion of the 30 CFR § 762.5 "fragile lands" definition (underlined below).
3) Change the underlined portion of the second sentence to read "Thus, the petition area meets the definition of fragile lands as described by 30 CFR § 762.5."

Thank you again for your time and patience. I will also submit my comments online.

Respectfully,
John Cosgrove

CONCLUSION (found in Vol. 1, pg. 2-40 and Vol. 1, page v)

After reviewing all information available relevant to primary allegation (2), the OSMRE has determined that the record supports a conclusion that the petition area or areas adjacent to it contain valuable fish and wildlife habitat, and critical habitats for endangered or...
Dear Sirs,

We wish to voice our support of the petition of the State of Tennessee regarding the surface mining in the North Cumberland Wildlife Area. Our interest is primarily recreational, but we are in favor of restrictions which permit limited mining activity while protecting special-status species. Re-mining must be done very cautiously.

We would appreciate your adopting the State's proposal.

(Earl Bandy, Field Office Director, Knoxville)
2 Office of Surface Mining, welcomed the group and outlined the ground rules for the meeting.
4 Mr. Bandy's remarks were followed by a PowerPoint presentation about the project that is available online at www.osmre.gov/tnlum.shtm.
8 MR. BANDY: We are going to go ahead and start with the speakers now.

MR. ALBERT GOOD: Thank you very much. My name is Albert Good. I'm not representing anybody. I'm just a citizen who lives in Oak Ridge, and when I first was ready to come to this meeting, I thought that I would be against all mining altogether, but now that I've looked at the good work that you guys have done, I understand that re-mining and augering with the restrictions for reclamation, it sounds like you've got it under control, and I like that idea. I would like to thank the Office of Surface Mining and Enforcement for this opportunity, for all the work that they have done. Most of my comments went away, but my only comment now is, I prefer Alternative 4 to Alternative 3, because apparently it was just a matter of surveying techniques to define the areas, and a ridgetop is a ridgetop no matter who or when it was designated, so I think that...
The Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 Office has received and reviewed the subject document and is commenting in accordance with §309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and §102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) proposes to designate those lands identified, in the State of Tennessee's 2010 petition, with a modification: a 1,200-foot corridor for 505 miles of ridgeline as lands unsuitable for surface coal mining. The modification is to allow re-mining, associated operations and road construction, and SMCRA-required reclamation, of 183.7 miles of highwall within the 505-mile ridgeline.

The EPA rated the DEIS as 'Environmental Concerns' (EC-2), indicating its review identified new, reasonably available alternatives within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed, which could potentially reduce the environmental impacts of the proposed action. The EPA recommends that the OSMRE refine its preferred alternative to avoid re-mining where natural reclamation is facilitating achievement of State-designated water uses and quality, a rebound in aquatic ecosystem diversity, and the reestablishment of forest, which is important to aquatic ecosystems and water quality within mountain ridgeline headwaters. Additionally, the EPA recommends the OSMRE refine its preferred alternative to consider in its "Lands Unsuitable for Mining" (LUM) designation all undisturbed acreage associated with active Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) permits set to expire after the official LUM designation. The EPA's review also found that insufficient information was provided to fully assess all of the environmental impacts. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion from the EPA's enclosure should be included in the final EIS (FEIS).

In general, the EPA supports the proposed project's purpose and need and detailed study alternatives. The EPA recommends that all of the technical comments in the enclosure be addressed in the FEIS. We recommend that all relevant environmental impacts not disclosed in this document or covered in the FEIS be addressed in additional NEPA documentation prior to the issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD).

Should you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Ms. Beth Walls, of my staff.

I attended the first public hearing in our area and spoke with several of the OSM staff about both the reference and the apparent contradiction in their Analysis Conclusions section regarding the "fragile lands" designation. It is still not really clear whether or not OSM is rejecting the state's "fragile lands" position or not. They have asked me to point that out in my comments, which I will do.

Sincerely,

John Cosgrove
(Earl Bandy, Field Office Director, Knoxville Office of Surface Mining, welcomed the group and outlined the ground rules for the meeting. Mr. Bandy's remarks were followed by a PowerPoint presentation about the project that is available online at www.osmre.gov/tnlum.shtm.)

DENISE ACQUISTA: I don't think that my comments are - or will be complete until I analyze more of the paperwork and talk to some more people to fully understand the impact of this. The alternatives didn't seem to be suitable. I looked at each and every one of them, but it - I think that there must be another alternative that is more suitable.

Upper Cumberland County is an environmentally sensitive area, which holds plants and animals that are endangered. And we know that from the report. There is not one alternative from OSM or the State that will ban mining completely, and yet fix the environmental pollution that has or will occur. Upper Cumberland County is dependent financially on tourism and retirees relocating to this area. I'm one of those, and did a lot of research before I decided to move here. And I'm sure that I wouldn't have had it been worse than other areas. Without consideration of these factors, this area will lose this resource. I ask that all mining stop and not be considered in the future. All possible restoration
In 2010, the State of Tennessee petitioned the federal OSMRE to designate certain ridgelines and connecting corridors within the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement as Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM). The petition seeks to prevent surface mining within 600 feet on either side of ridgelines (i.e., a 1,200 foot corridor) within the 269 square miles of the two areas (located in Anderson, Morgan, Scott, and Campbell Counties). The state believes that surface coal-mining operations are incompatible with existing State or local land use plans or programs; and, that they would affect fragile lands, resulting in significant damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, and aesthetic values and natural systems.

We join in the written comments made by the National Parks Conservation Association and other intervenors, and add additional concerns below.

The Chapter supports Alternative 4 with some caveats and modifications:

Surface Mining Would Be Incompatible with the State of Tennessee's Plans and Programs

OSMRE then makes reference to several state plans that it evaluated as land use plans or programs. These include the 2007 North Cumberlands Conservation Acquisition, 2008...
Please accept these comments from Sierra Club on behalf of our members on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's (OSMRE) Draft Petition Evaluation Document / Environmental Impact Statement OSM-EIS-37 (PED/EIS) for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA).

I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that "all ridge lines" in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

The entire petition area should be designated as "Fragile Lands," because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated "very high" for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous
My family and I visit Tennessee twice per year every year in order to enjoy the state's beautiful mountain scenery. I strongly urge OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
As a frequent visitor to Tennessee's beautiful mountains, I strongly urge OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that all ridge lines in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Allowing remining in the area would cause devastating environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designated as unsuitable for mining exploitation.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species (such as the Hellbender), would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands. The approval of this far-sighted petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments. use the mountains to create some wind power . please !
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We need to maintain & protect our natural resources; not use them up with their are other alternatives. Remember Sun, Wind, Water can be used to generate electricity/power and doesn't mar our environment.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridge-line corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I staunchly support the state of Tennessee's request to protect mountain ridgetops in the Cumberland. Having lived and worked there, I appreciate the vast beauty of the area and the necessity to preserve this vital ecological system. To ruin this area for the sake of money and to release more carbon into the environment is not only criminal but an absurd exercise in self-destruction.

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Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I feel very strongly about protecting the beautiful lands of TN and all the other states as well! Surface mining such as mountain top removal is hideous, despicable and a totally destructive mining method that should have NEVER been allowed anywhere!! I am writing to plead with the OSMRE to strongly support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. This is obviously the correct action to take, especially considering the declining use of coal and the grave concern around climate change and carbon in the atmosphere. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable, which it certainly is! This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. We must look forward to the future to protect our lands, water resources, wildlife and all it's people for the greater good of mankind, not a short sighted rush to mine for a corporation's bottom line or a few temporary jobs!!

Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, ANY remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. As a matter of fact, there should be the utmost and extreme care taken if ANY remining is to ever take place! Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be VERY, VERY strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining. These parameters MUST be backed up by very objective and strong scientific research and planning at every stage.

The entire petition area should be designated as extremely 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining, especially the obnoxious method of MTR is a leading and primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. EVERY HUMAN AND ALL OTHER SPECIES MUST HAVE CLEAN WATER IN ORDER TO LIVE!!! Additionally, ANY coal mining in the petition area is completely incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

Tourism and recreation is a very critical part of the economic future of the region and must be protected at all costs! Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is absolutely vital to the current
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I am a REGISTERED VOTER & writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
Please, please, please do not allow the coal mining industry to destroy the beautiful mountains of the Cumberland Plateau. We don't need the coal with our transition to clean energy. The land is much more valuable for recreation and will create far more jobs than strip mining, jobs that will last forever. The coal company will produce only a few jobs, then they will leave the land destroyed and unusable for future recreation, and when they are gone, the jobs are gone as well.

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| 3255 | We have a unique opportunity for Tennessee to lead the way in protecting critical lands for their long-term importance instead of destroying them for short-term corporate gain. Please do not let the mining industry rob us and our children of the health, ecological, and environmental benefits of these mountain tops and ridges.

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I have lived in Tennessee most of my life and send the damage that stripping these mountain cause. Protect our land.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments. 

A last comment on surface mining for coal is that it is a very regressive form of land use for a product that is regressive on the Climate and water quality. The state of Tennessee should limit such land disturbing activities to the very minimum and assure that the environment of land, water and air are as
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To let you know that I am not just clicking and sending a Sierra Club “canned” message, I want to personally state my own reasons for protecting mountain tops. First, there is just the aesthetic issue. When I drive up I-75 headed north out of Knoxville, it is sad to see the mountains that have already been scarred—even from a distance of several miles away. This damages the public perception of Tennessee’s pristine wilderness beauty that attracts so many tourists to our state. More destruction would contribute to a public perception that Tennessee is a plundered, poverty-ridden state that should be avoided. Second is the horrible track record of environmental damage left behind from coal mining—not just the scarred land but the polluted waterways. Coal company denial of these issues does not change the fact that they still happen, and that water quality is a serious health issue for people living downstream. Third is the decline in air quality that results from burning the coal—particularly the high-sulfur, low quality coal from around here. It is not just the carbon dioxide, either; it is the particulates, acid rain, mercury, etc. This is the air we breathe and it contributes to TN having some of the worst health issues in the nation. Fourth, the coal companies argue that coal brings jobs, but this claim is exaggerated because coal companies have done everything possible to lower their costs and get the coal with the fewest people possible. I read recently that nationwide, there are more jobs in the solar industry than in coal; Tennessee could have more clean jobs that are high-paying than coal jobs if we adopted sensible strategies. Now I return you to the Sierra Club’s suggested e-mail.

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The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species.
I am a native Tennessean, an avid outdoorsman who long ago fell in love with the spectacular beauty, the abundant wildlife and diverse landscapes of East Tennessee. As such, I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
In Tennessee, our mountains and ridges must be protected. The represent one or our state's most valuable and irreplaceable resources.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments. Please do the right thing.
When I first moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee in October, the beauty of the Cumberland Mountains, the peaks 3600 feet above MSL, was marred by a sawtooth profile as viewed from State Highway 62 descending into the Clinch River Valley. The profile was caused by extensive strip mining on the peaks. Beauty of the mountains was not the only result. When I took my scout troop, Troop 224, BSA, on a camping trip to the valley of the Obed River, the water was lifeless and filled with a yellow silt. No fish were apparent. Therefore, I ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan. Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee. Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands. The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the
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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I have glorious glimpses Buffalo Mountain through the forest behind my home. We cannot recreate a mountain top or ridge line after it is destroyed. And we need to protect our watersheds! Fossil fuels are being phased out as our future fuel sources are being developed. Time to preserve our mountain tops rather than exploit. So I add my name to this petition below.

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Considering that the state of Maryland banned this kind of mining more than 25 years ago, this letter shouldn't be necessary re Tennessee - BUT IT IS:

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
We have seen so much of our state, West Virginia, devastated by mountaintop massacre mining. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining. The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan. Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee. Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands. The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
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Keep coal in the ground….it works better there then in my air when I breath.

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ONE HEALTHY PLANET PLEASE
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STOP THE GLUTTONY!!
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Coal is best left in the ground.

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As a parent and grandparent as well as an architect, educator, and community volunteer leader, I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.
Please support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as UNSUITABLE for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This provides the best protection for the land, and water quality, and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

To allow remining in the area will cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Remining must only occur under very limited circumstances and must never be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining must only be allowed when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining, and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining must be extremely strict in an area that is otherwise designated as unsuitable for mining.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

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***For too long we have given away our natural heritage of majestic mountains by allowing mountaintop removal. Please act to end this misguided practice which is so destructive to our natural heritage. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
Mining in these beautiful mountains can mean nothing but disaster for the land, wildlife and the people who love Wilderness!

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As an American who values our natural heritage and the benefits that it has for all Americans, I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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As the owner of my ancestral home in this area, I am concerned that ridge line mining is being considered. During my lifetime, I've experienced rivers significant fish kills (along with other life in the river) due to toxic run off from mines. Also, many in this area are dependent on well water for their

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And then consider this:

"I hate a man who skins the land." – President Theodore Roosevelt
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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE OUR BEAUTIFUL PLANET FROM THE SELFISH, GREEDY POLLUTERS THAT DON’T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ANYTHING !!!
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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
My family, friends and I are writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Enough of Tenn. has been destroyed by mining. This bit of natural beauty must be preserved. Thank you.
We MUST start leaving fossil fuels in the ground, if there is to be a livable future for ourselves and our children.

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Protecting this habitat and the headwaters also protects drinking water.

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Mining on ridgetops is incompatible with tourism.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands. I grew up in the mountains of WV, and have seen first hand the destruction and degradation of the land and water that this sort of mining causes. It must stop. Long term destruction of the people's land is not worth short profits by short lived corporations.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments. Please say no to the destruction of the environment and the wildlife by uncaring greedy scumbags of big coal.

I do not live in Tennessee, and I have never seen mountain top removal in person, but I have seen video footage and that was enough to make me physically sick. It is as bad as being forced to watch a woman being gang raped. The woman might recover from the trauma; the mountain will not.
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COAL IS SO PASSE. PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO STOP ITS USE, AND TURN INVESTMENT TO RENEWABLE AND SUSTAINABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations. Protect America’s and Tennessee’s nature, not coal-mining profits for industry owners.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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As a former resident of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

To whom it concerns,

My wife and I strongly oppose mountain top mining. This method destroys what took nature about one million years to produce. The mining companies insist they will restore the area which never happens and in fact is impossible! Please consider this our (2) votes, stop surface mining now!!
I share the concerns of the Sierra Club. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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If you mine and, burn it' You will breathe it!!

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I request that OSMRE support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Dear sir:

I feel strongly that springs and other sources of headwater should be protected against degradation caused by future surface mining. It is so much more sensible to prevent ruination than to try to remedy it after the fact.

As a compromise, though not one that makes me happy, permitting mining on the WMA below the ridgelines would be acceptable—barely.

When we have visitors from other parts of the country, we always try to make an all-day trip to the North Cumberland, and are always rewarded by their pleasure in the experience.

It makes me angry that you could even think of making decisions that would risk destroying or damaging the WMA. Surely, surely you will think long-term, not short-term.
I am writing to support the State of Tennessee's request, and intent, to designate all ridge line corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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I deeply appreciate the natural beauty of the Cumberland Mountains and I would be horrified if coal mining destroyed the beautiful ridges there. It would be a stunning loss for the entire country and the world. When I go there I am already sad enough that we took this beautiful place away from the Cherokees. They were better stewards than we are. Please do not destroy these beautiful landscapes.
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Please support Alternative 4 which most nearly reflects the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridge-line corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I believe you work to do the best thing for us and for future generations. Thank you for that.
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please protect our water supply, don't allow mining to further destroy and threaten public health
My wife and I believe in protecting the environment from destructive surface coal mining. Protect this land for tomorrow's citizens!!!

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
We have so little of our wild heritage left to share with the future. At a time when it's critical to keep fossil fuels in the ground, advocating for more filthy coal and its inherent destruction of the land, environment, and climate is grossly out of touch with reality.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

The entire petition area should be designated as ‘Fragile Lands,’ because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated ‘very high’ for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

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The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations. There should not be an office for surface mining and ALL. That activity should be stopped immediately. To even consider allowing more of this destructive process to occur is criminal. The result of surface mining is total environmental destruction. It should not be allowed to occur anywhere anymore. This is
Dear Mr. Bandy,

I am submitting the following comments re: Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Draft Petition Evaluation Document/Environmental Impact Statement.

First, let me extend praise for you and your team and your sincere and devoted effort to make the public at large aware of the hearings. I attended the public hearing in Clinton, and I cannot imagine a hearing running any smoother. The information and establishment of guidelines allowed a thorough cross-section of opinion in a respectful and efficient manner. I also appreciate the materials you distributed.

Regarding the Petition: Anderson County represents the epitome of diverse energy production. We have a rich coal mining history, of course, but the county is also home to hundreds of oil and gas wells, the first Tennessee Valley Authority dam and the nuclear energy research of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Every one of these energy sources contribute greatly to the wealth and prosperity, not only of Anderson County, but to the region, state, country and world. In fact, it was energy-Norris Dam and the nuclear legacy of Oak Ridge-that changed our county forever.

Like our history suggests, our community has long supported all-of-the-above energy policy. This position includes and embraces coal. However, granting the Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition as proposed by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) would inhibit our ability to conduct mining on more than 7,700 acres within our county. This acreage not only encompasses a large amount of coal reserves but also represents hundreds of jobs and tens of thousands of dollars of severance taxes. According to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury, Anderson County has collected more than $780,000 in taxes since 2010. These collections go to support our county school and highway systems and are an important part of our budget.

Coal mining has also positively contributed to some of Anderson County's most frequented tourism sites, specifically the Coal Creek Company's WindRock Park Trails. The 72,000 acres of trails host hundreds of ATV, motorcycles, bike and other off-road vehicle riders every weekend. Many of these trails appear on reclaimed surface mines and the development was made economically feasible by the access and haul roads built by the mining companies. Examples like WindRock prove that coal mining and tourism...
As one who travels to enjoy nature and wildlife, I urge OSM to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. In my view, Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable and will offer the best protection for the lands and vital water quality for wildlife.

I am concerned that permitting remining in the area could cause additional environmental damage and severely undermine the desired protection of the area. Therefore, I ask that remining be allowed only under very limited circumstances. In no case should remining be an excuse to mine more undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed in instances when the State and OSM agree that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm.

Furthermore, I request that the complete petition area be designated as ‘Fragile Lands’ because it contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated ‘very high’ for habitat and species protection. Coal mining has been a primary contributor to declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

Tourism and nature recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors like me spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs in the four-county area covered by the petition. Tourism also is vital to the current and future sustainable economy of Tennessee.

Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining will protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species as well as drinking water supplies. Approval of this request will help safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a part of our nation’s natural heritage. Please grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area.
Please support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridge line corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

Allowing re-mining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any re-mining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Re-mining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by re-mining and when the benefits of re-mining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for re-mining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridge line corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The OSM should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my comments.
I lived in Kentucky for several years and worked in a design and planning firm. I had an opportunity to work with small eastern Kentucky communities and saw the devastation of the environment in some area from surface mining. It is refreshing to hear the state of Tennessee wants to protect their lands. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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We need to conserve and preserve all that we can for the sake of our children. Otherwise, they will be digging through our garbage piles to try and survive!

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments. I feel this is very important.
We can not afford to take more fossil fuels out of the earth because of the damage it has already done and the threat of human extinction.

I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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It is so important you create actions to save this important piece of land.
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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I am a retired chemical engineer writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I am writing to ask OSMRE to SUPPORT the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate ALL ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining.

Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'ALL ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated UNSUITABLE. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and REPRESENTS THE CLEAR INTENTION OF THE STATE of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited AND STRICT circumstances and should NOT BE AN EXCUSE to MINE ADDITIONAL UNDISTURBED MOUNTAINSIDES mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I request that the OSMRE support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining can protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, can safeguard drinking water supplies, and can preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of natural heritage in the USA. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
For the safety of our children, we must leave the coal in the ground. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
This proposal is at least a start in the right direction. In my opinion, all mining needs to be reconsidered due to the damages that it does to our ecosystem. Jobs in new technologies can be created which would save countless lives and help families ravaged by the impacts of fossil fuels.

I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.
As a resident of the mountains of North Carolina, I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
Woodlands and wilderness belong to all people, not just corporations who destroy them for profit to a handful of executives. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining. The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
Coal should be shut down. There are alternatives available today. NO more devastation from coal mining.

I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

These mountains are stunning. Save them!!
We are writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands. The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our comments.

I am in support of the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Coal mining has had a devastating effect on the habitat in that area and the overall quality of the environment. Although I live in Arkansas, I have visited and vacationed in Tennessee on multiple occasions. It seem that Alternative 4 would most closely represent the intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable.

Remining should be thoroughly evaluated in terms of the cost and benefit analysis, evaluating the overall impact on the area including wildlife, air quality, water quality, natural beauty of the area, etc. It should also be noted that this area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition of "fragile lands." Coal mining would have a devastating impact on habitat and species protection.

Thank you in advance for thoroughly evaluation this.

The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.
I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Jerry Brownfield
This is at least a first step, in my opinion, all fossil fuels should be left in the ground. New jobs can be created which would save countless lives and families having to deal with the health issues created by our use of fossil fuels.

I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.
Please support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridge-line corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
FIVE HUNDRED American mountains gone forever. That's a shameful tragedy I'm astonished was allowed to happen. This is our legacy being destroyed. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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I am thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail where mountain-top-removal mining has been kept from impacting view from the Roan Highlands in North Carolina. Similar views should be protected for others to enjoy for generations to come, especially with cleaner sources of energy now available.

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Thank you for considering my comments.

I support you in banning coal mining of 67,000 acres of land. Parts of those acres are most likely homes to animals. And even the parts that aren't, are still fun to enjoy, and may even contain plants such as trees, which are good for the environment. We can't harm those plants just for a coal mine. If we go towards clean energy, we probably won't eventually even use coal.
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2015 was the hottest year in a century. Coal adds to global warming. Enough!
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67,000 acres is a tiny fraction of the 1,200,000 acres destroyed by surface mining so far.

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I encourage the Office of Surface Mining to grant the state’s request to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains.
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Thank you to the State of Tennessee for protecting its natural beauty from the dirty devastation sure to come from coal mining! I do not want my country rendered ugly and useless due to an industry that has no place in today's world where other resources are available to create energy that don't leave behind a filthy and unhealthy mess!

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Thank you for your careful consideration of our comments.

I urge you to please protect the ridgetops in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area from destructive surface coal mining. As a former resident of Knoxville, I spent a fair amount of time in this area hiking the Cumberland Trail and my daughter spent a lot of time horseback riding in this area. It would be a travesty to destroy the wilderness character of this region by permitting mountaintop coal mining. Not only do I believe coal should be left in the ground for the sake of our environment, but it is important to protect the quality of wildlife habitat and our water quality. I would hope that you would heed the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridge lines as unsuitable for mining. I urge the Office of Surface Mining to grant the state's request and protect this wonderful part of Tennessee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my opinion.
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Dear Mr. Bandy,

I hope that this email finds you doing well. I attended the public meeting (but did not speak) at Campbell County High School on January 14 for comment on the proposed plans dealing with the protection of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area and other mining areas in the region. I wanted to send my comments in as your office considers the six options that were mentioned at that meeting. I wanted to make sure that I got my comments in before tomorrow’s deadline.

I live and work just north of the impacted area, and I am strongly in favor of option #4, the option set forth by the state of Tennessee that will protect the most land. I think that option will be in the best interest of the area, especially as we look forward to some other economic options that will benefit both the people and the environment of the area.
I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designated as unsuitable for mining.

The entire petition area should be designated as ‘Fragile Lands,’ because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated ‘very high’ for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
Let's just talk about the elephant in the room, shall we? Coal mining companies are declaring bankruptcy right and left, leaving toxic wastelands behind for the states to clean up, and miners without disability payments or pensions. JW Resources right there in Tennessee just filed January 12!

So what would be the point of allowing coal companies, who already know they intend to file bankruptcy before they put a shovel in the ground, come in, leave behind a wasteland and a potential toxic superfund site behind, when you could preserve these acres for ongoing, continuous tourist money?

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Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

I urge OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely echoes the State's intent to designate 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable.

Allowing remining in the area will cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under exceptional circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides.

The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan, threatens drinking water supplies, and recreational tourism.

Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts.

Approval of the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would reflect a forward-thinking stance on part of OSMRE.
I ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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When I first heard about Mountain Top Removal mining I laughed because I thought it was a joke. Who would allow our beautiful mountains to be destroyed like that. But it's not a joke and it's definitely not funny. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining. The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan. Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee. Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands. The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations. As someone who has experienced the beauty of the Tennessee mountains, I ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. It is my understanding that Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Remining should only be allowed, at most, when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Any remining should then only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining. Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands. It is the right thing to do for all the citizens of this region and those who will travel to it in the future. The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
Dear Mr. Bandy:

I am submitting the following comments on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's (OSM) draft petition evaluation document and environmental impact statement (PED/EIS) for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area petition to find certain lands unsuitable for surface coal mining operations. As you are aware, I have over 30 years of mining experience in the area of the proposed Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition (LUM) area.

1) In 2006, OSM determined that a similar type LUM that comprised 283,834 acres did not meet the minimum legal requirements to go forward. That it made broad allegations covering a large tract of land, didn't offer factual support for its allegations, didn't address all lands within the area and didn't take current mining regulations into consideration, all of which are minimum requirements set by federal law for such a petition to be deemed complete. I find this LUM to be very similar.

2) In enacting the Surface Mining, Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in 1977, Congress prohibited surface coal mining in several types of areas listed in Section 522 of the Act. It also provided the petition process as a special tool to be used to prohibit mining in sensitive areas not already protected where the petitioners can demonstrate that mining and reclamation under SMCRA requirements is not feasible. The first step in the process is to determine whether the petition is complete and provides evidence that establishes the validity of the allegations. The petition must be supported by evidence that establishes the validity of the allegations for the particular type of mining operation for each portion of the petitioned areas. The allegations should be based on scientific evidence - not emotions or political motives.

3) The petition assumes that any future mining permits would allow the kind of environmental impacts that occurred before enactment of SMCRA.

4) The petition is overly broad in scope and it does not provide the required factual allegations and supporting evidence for the designated area. The large size of the selected area means that it is unlikely that the evidence presented can relate to criteria for designation throughout the petition area. The petitioners didn't provide evidence that supported the specific allegations for the entire region.
I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

It is critical to protect the EARTH. Stop mining. Stop the burning of fossil fuels.
Please support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining.

The burning of coal is destructive to the planet. Mountaintop removal is destructive to the mountains, the water and the people who live in the area.

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Allowing re-mining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any re-mining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Re-mining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by re-mining and when the benefits of re-mining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for re-mining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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I want to leave the land to our children and grandchildren, but I want there to be land to leave.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
Hey, guys! Tennessee isn't exactly a hotbed of radical environmental activism, so when THEY object to coal mining, it must be SERIOUS!

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
Stop all coal mining. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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Over 500 mountains and 1,200,000 acres of land have already been destroyed in Appalachia. The destruction must stop. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
To stop global warming and its related disastrous impact on our planet we must keep our coal in the ground. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to revisit the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. I had forgotten what it was like to go outside the city. Crossing the boundary between Gatlinburg and the Park was like being transported from one world to another. It was like closing a door behind us and leaving the noise of city behind us. Even in the middle of Summer the Park was cool and refreshing. We must preserve our Parks and Nature and Trees to remind us that Human life and Nature are totally dependent upon each other for existence upon this Earth. Clean Energy is within our reach now. Why destroy more of Earth when there are other more positive alternatives literally within our grasp?
I am writing to ask OSMRE to SUPPORT the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as UNSUITABLE for SURFACE COAL MINING! Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Allowing re-mining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any re-mining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Re-mining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by re-mining and when the benefits of re-mining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for re-mining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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Gentleman, Please put more sense on what the damage is been created to all that all depend on.

Nothing will bring back what the nature created so carefully and with the reason that were minted for. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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I find really hard to believe that a company wants to start a big surface mining project when oil and gas is a better choice than coal. By and large oil is less of an environmental issue and right now we have plenty of the oil and gas. Just look at oil/gas prices at the pump.

We still need to move away from petroleum products and develop even better energy solutions, but it will do until we get there - just stop devastating the mountains.

I support Tennessee's request to protect the ridgetops, but let's work to protect even more from surface destroying coal miners.

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Please prevent the wanton distraction of the Cumberland Mountains. We can do better than this.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

If remining is allowed: 
- The AML Priority I list should be considered first for areas to be off-limits for remining.
- A finite timeline could be applied as a parameter for applicants who wish to mine an area and reclaim the area.
- The AML funding for Tennessee is inadequate and needs to be revised to accomplish its intended function.
I live in Alabama and my favorite places are the mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina. When I go there I feel the closest to heaven on earth of any place I have visited. Please protect these areas so they don't turn into a hell on earth landscape and other environmental disasters including global warming. We need to keep as much carbon in the ground as possible.

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WHY have we come to ALLOW so many little "no-nothing peons", whose otherwise insignificant lives to even utter their opinions, let alone the power to f*ck up - so irreversibly - what nature took millions of years to create.

And, nature did not create the balance and ecology for a little greedy creature to undo for some imagined short-term personal gain for themselves and their political cronies (also peons). Their little flash of time on this planet/country, will quickly be forgotten (a few weeks), as the planet bares untold scars forever

Obviously, their short-sightedness and myopia, inhibits them from reflect on the current environmental state from years of ravaging the nearby mountain-top destruction!!!!!

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My name is Liane Russell, and I have resided in Anderson County just one year short of 70 years. Over the decades, most of my, and my family’s, outdoor recreation - hiking and river running - has occurred in the northern Cumberlands, and especially in Morgan and Scott Counties. In the 1960s, we became concerned about the severe threats to the uniquely beautiful and biologically rich landscapes of the area, and, with a few others, we founded the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP), an organization that is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

All of us who love the Cumberlands were very excited when, five years ago, the State submitted a petition to have ridgelines in a large portion of the area designated as unsuitable for surface mining. Such a designation will not only protect the visual experience that visitors to this region value so highly. It will also save the integrity of our unique rivers. In particular, TCWP has a very special interest in the Big South Fork of the Cumberland and its tributaries, and was instrumental in bringing about creation of the Big South Fork River and Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park System authorized in 1974 and valued by an ever growing number of visitors from across the country.

Ridgeline mining, being in the headwaters of streams, affects water quality and quantity downstream. It is known to impact the survival of aquatic organisms, including special-status species. For this reason (and others), the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands." Additionally, since the effect of re-mining is contrary to the intent of designating a protected area, the criteria for establishing its appropriateness should be carefully examined.

In summary: I strongly support the State of Tennessee's intent to designate as unsuitable for surface mining all of the ridgelines' 1,200 ft-wide corridors in the petition area, extending to and connecting with stream corridors in the North Cumberland WMA and the Emory River Tract Conservation Easement. Alternative 4 most closely accomplishes this. I also recommend that the petition area be designated as "fragile lands."

Finally, re-mining should be considered as an exception to the designated area only in those limited cases where both the State and OSMRE agree that genuine environmental improvement will be worth the disturbance in an area otherwise deemed unsuitable for mining.

Upper Cumberland County is an environmentally sensitive area which holds plants and animals that are endangered.

There is not one alternative from OSM or the state that will ban mining and yet fix the environmental pollution that has or will occur.

Upper Cumberland County is dependent financially on tourism and retirees relocating to this area. Without consideration of these factors, this area will lose this resource.

I ask that all mining stop and not be considered in the future. All possible restoration should occur without further mining.

The area of protection should encompass 76,133 acres for unsuitable.

Permitting for reclamation should have oversight by

Cleanup of acid mine drainage to waters should be include with this petition.
I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

We don't need more coal and we certainly don't need to destroy the environment to get it.

My name is Lora McBride, I live in Bledsoe County. I am a hiker and backpacker and have seen the beauty of the North Cumberland lands. I very strongly support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate ALL ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining. That designation should cover all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

Technology and science can identify these areas. These areas should be designated as "Fragile Lands" because coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special status species.

I am very concerned with what happens downstream from coal mining areas.

Destruction of these areas will also have a negative impact on tourism. Tourism is very important to the current and future economy of Tennessee. The Cumberland Trail provides a great opportunity to share our amazing natural resources, however nobody wants to hike through a viewshed past destroyed land with polluted water.
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Several times I have spent several weeks in this beautiful place over the part 25 years. In fact one of the most memorable Christmases of my life was spent there. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. 

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It is time to stop burning coal and invest in sustainable(solar, wind, etc.) energy sources and protect our dwindling wild and forested areas as preserves, parks and habitat for flora and fauna and for we humans.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Please don't spoil this beautiful area!!
I grew up in eastern Tennessee and still own land in Morgan County, Tennessee. I have witnessed the devastation that coal mining can wreak upon communities and the fragile ecosystems surrounding the mines. There is no excuse for strip mining anymore. The Cumberland Mountains are unique and wonderful in many, many ways. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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And why not start investing in more sustainable energy sources too?

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How much more destruction are you going to allow. Tell them to change business model to green.
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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments and Keep It In The Ground!
Although I live in Hawaii, I was born in Nashville, so I have a special love for Tennessee. I hope their proposal to preserve mountain tops is passed. I can still hear the song "Born on the mountain top in Tennessee, greatest state in the land of the free"... Davey Crocket! Let's keep Tennessee great, and inspire the rest of our country. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

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But then again, the mining industry in for is PROFIT! Not giving a damn about killing wildlife. Destroying wilderness, polluting water, killing our ozone layer with your "clean" coal pollution, and killing earth. And all of this is just for money. This is for all the coal mining industries.

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My name is Michael Erp. I am a Professional Engineer and I work for Alden Resources. I have over 30 years experience in the development and operation of Environmental controls for coal mining and other industrial sites in Tennessee and Kentucky. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this Lands Unsuitable Petition.

Completeness. Petition filed by "State" on September 30, 2010. LUM deemed "complete" on 11-5-2010. "Negotiations" ongoing between OSM and petitioner during June 26, 2012. THIS PETITION WAS NEVER VIABLE AND CERTAINLY NOT COMPLETE. The petition consisted of rationale that was presented on 20-30 pages. This frivolous application proposed to affect over 65,000 acres. WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN WRITIEN ON 30 PAGES TO JUSTIFY THIS PETITION FOR SUCH A LARGE AREA?!! This approach to a Lands Unsuitable Application is akin to the "sue and settle" scheme that is so prevalent with EPA issues. This scheme has now been perpetuated by OSM.

Property Rights and land Use Plans. Property transaction to the State Of Tennessee was undertaken in about 2002. This transaction was clearly predicated to be a multiple use land use with severed property rights transferred separately to mineral, logging, and oil/gas interests. Included in this transaction was a limit on the maximum surface area that could be surface mined on the property respective to the mineral owner's rights. In 2005 the State of Tennessee (TWRA) formulates the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Even as late as 2015 OSM was considering revisions that had been formulated by the State to the Management Plans. These "Plans" were not existing when the property was taken by the State of TN. Furthermore, these plans were in direct contradiction of the provisions that the State agreed to when they took the surface rights of the property. Noteworthy to the (SWAP) plan is the fact that petitioning OSM to declare the land unsuitable for mining was one of the Priorities listed as action items. This disingenuous process by the state equates to buying a house in a subdivision where a long list of restrictions are agreed to and then totally ignoring those restrictions and developing your own without regard to other property owners rights. OSM validates this approach by considering the petition at all!!!

Allegation 1- Land use Plans. OSM's conclusion that the sterilization of "between 43 and 190 million tons of coal reserves is an insignificant percentage" defies - - anyone’s imagination who works outside of the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT! OSM asserts in their findings that additional coal production can be
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As a native of Tennessee, I am especially protective of the beautiful areas I enjoyed in my youth and later with my children. Please do not destroy the beauty and habitat by surface mining. Thank you.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

I am writing in support of the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. I understand that this corresponds most closely to ‘alternative 4’. I also request that the whole petition area be designated 'Fragile Lands', being important for habitat and species protection.

I encourage OSM to apply strict criteria for any remining allowed in the protected area. At most, it should be allowed only when the State of Tennessee and OSM agree that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. In no case should undisturbed land be mined under the rubric of ‘remining’.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to work in concert with the State to safeguard drinking water supplies, protect rare, threatened and endangered species, and preserve recreational, cultural and scientific value. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
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Also, to reduce global warming we MUST keep ALL climate-changing fossil fuels in the ground!
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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species. It would safeguard drinking water supplies in the region, and it would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

The approval of this State petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, which are a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the State’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.
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The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing re-mining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any re-mining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Re-mining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by re-mining and when the benefits of re-mining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for re-mining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
Because we must learn how to move away from toxic sources of energy, I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
OSMRE needs to support the request by the State of Tennessee to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 is the closest choice to see that the best action is taken, for it represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This alternative will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

Once again opening this area to mining would cause environmental damage and forever negate any protection of the area. Therefore, any remining should not occur under any circumstances.

The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. As already well know, coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

Tourism and recreation are critical parts of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

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I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments. This beautiful land should be protected.

It is the position of the Sierra Club’s Cumberland Chapter to support the State’s petition deeming the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Unsuitable for Surface Mining.

We believe tourism to be a far more sustainable industry than mining, and believe the State of Tennessee is right to try and protect the area that brings the State $177.4 million per year, while providing more than 1,400 jobs.

We would also admonish the State to consider limiting mining of old sites; and only in situations where Tennessee, and the Office of Surface Mining identify environmental problems that can only be fixed by remining.

Additionally, we feel the entire petition area should be designated as “fragile lands,” because:
- the area is rate “very high” for habitat protection.
- coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species.
- we need to account for the impact on species living downstream of the petition area.
- OSM’s draft EIS determined that the petition area contains natural resources that met the “fragile lands” definition.
It is simply absurd to destroy forested mountains that are the front line against climate change to mine an obsolete fuel that contributes to it. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

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The entire petition area should be designated as ‘Fragile Lands,’ because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated ‘very high’ for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species, including humans, in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Thanks for Being There, and Caring!
Thank you for your agency's consideration of the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition, filed by the State of Tennessee in 2010. As Tennesseans and as Christians, the peaks of the Cumberland Mountains are intimately intertwined with our lifelong connection to God's Creation. Mountaintops are well established in the Bible as locations of profound interchanges between God and humans. Like many mountain people, our personal religious experiences bear this out. The still, small voice of God is more accessible to Appalachians atop our mountains than anywhere in the world.

Solitude in vibrant and wild places is critical to our spiritual connections and emotional health, collectively and as individuals. That public lands in Tennessee are irreparably mined for coal, an increasingly outdated fuel source, is appalling to us and to many other Christians. It is an expression of ingratitude and irreverence -- for the most precious gifts from our Creator. Truly, it is sin.

We're very pleased that you're entertaining a scientific evaluation of the costs and benefits of this sad state of affairs. There are many critical arguments regarding surface coal mining's degradation of economic options within our communities, a disturbing history of corporate irresponsibility, and both direct and indirect diminution of human health. We'll let others make these strong and valid arguments.

For our part, we want to encourage you to also include noneconomic factors in your deliberations. An appropriate Christian response to a mountain is wonder, awe and gratitude. Mountains should only be used in ways that support such experiences and protect them for future generations, not in ways that will scar God's creation for thousands of years.

Re-mining should be approved as an exception only with solid proof of strong benefit to the particular area under consideration. In the past, re-mining has been the exception that ate the rule. The devil is in the details of application. Please fashion a meaningful departure from our misguided past.

When man defaces a mountain he exceeds his authority. When he attempts to rebuild it he exceeds his ability. We simply are not Gods. We are creative and respectful children of God and our political structure has, and can, include that higher vision in our deliberative processes. We pray you will do so.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that you support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all
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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

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Keep coal in the ground.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I find myself entertained simply in the fact that I am writing to urge you to shelter this designated ground from transforming it into a visual wasteland, and with it the concurrent environmental pollution from the runoff of the scarred, stripped lands. What for’ Coal extraction’ This country's energy dynamic is rapidly changing, changing away from coal. How passe this mountaintop coal extraction has become. Am I right’

So, ...-

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

- -

The foregoing words were not written by me, but I agree wholeheartedly with each of them. I am no
STOP DESTROYING OUR LANDS!!! I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.
As a concerned citizen, taxpayer, and healthcare provider, I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
We don't need the coal - in fact, we can't afford to burn it. The State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining must be supported by your office. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. On the other hand, we do need the water that intact forest affords. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances if at all, and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

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As I feel we need to move away from mining coal, I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Please do the right thing and support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Correspondence

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With what is now known, a government cannot be legitimate without banning fossil fuels. The environment is national security; pollution is treason.

I thank you for your attention.
Do you remember when the government was there to provide for the common good? When the government secured the future for its citizens? I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

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We don't need more coal. We need to save this planet.
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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
The Cumberlands are unique and special. They provide essential wildlife habitat and environmental benefits for small communities. I request OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under extremely limited circumstances and must not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining. The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan. Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee. Supporting the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands. The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
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Considering that coal is THE dirtiest of the carbon-based fuels from cradle to grave and is the most significant contributor of atmospheric CO2 (which is not only a potent greenhouse gas, but is also causing acidification of the world's oceans and other surface waters) and that demand for coal is rapidly declining, leaving this coal undisturbed where it lies is the obvious course to take. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

We do not need the awful coal fouling up our air, water and lungs. Nothing ever goes back to the way it was prior to digging. It is changed forever. We have knowledge to make and use other technologies for
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Regardless of the science and economic benefits, it is time to protect our water and air as well as the flora and fauna have rights too!
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Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

I am a native of Tennessee and have enjoyed many vacation hours in the state’s mountains; thus, I am especially supportive of this measure.

Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened, and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural, and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

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Coal is a dead fuel...it adds to our greenhouse gases and pollutes the air of Maine, even though we don't use coal. Stop promoting a dead technology and get with the twenty first century. Stop adding to the decline of our planet. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
Coal is going the way of the horse and buggy. Time to let it go.

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WHY do you want to take MORE advantage of the people of Appalachia’ I lived in Kentucky and I KNOW what the mining industry does to the land and water, ruining it for all for generations to come! Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
The Cumberland region is a beautiful ecosystem which provides sustenance to important diversity. The mining industry has already destroyed a huge area of Tennessee's natural beauty for a short-lived energy fix. In the light of climate change, we now understand that coal is a dirty fossil fuel that should be left in the ground while we develop alternative sources of energy.

I am writing, consequently, to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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It is outstanding to see the State of Tennessee seeking this positive request to protect its environment. This effort should be supported on the national level so that protecting the environment expands and positive state initiatives are encouraged.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

My daughters and I reside in this region of the country and we want to preserve our country's beauty, air and water.
ID 3537  We have only one EARTH. Why not protect it?

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WE NEED TO GET OFF COAL NOT DESTROY MORE HABITAT AND PEOPLES LANDS WATER AND LIVES.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. The damage caused by mining these areas is vast and lasts many lifetimes. The citizens of Tennessee and the country deserve the protections being requested.

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PEOPLE ABOVE CORPORATIONS NEED TO COME FIRST!!!
I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining - and I will add that we are coming to a place where the entire planet is unsuitable for any further fossil-fuel extraction or burning, so every little cutback helps, some. More would be better. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.  

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Thank you for your time and for your consideration.
When will all the destruction of our natural havens and beauty stop? We already have a glut of oil in reserve and we all know that we cannot go on burning fossil fuels. We also know that renewable energy is the wave of the future. So, why would anyone want to allow anymore mountain tops to be stripped and destroyed?

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Allowing any further mining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

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Allowing re-mining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Any re-mining should only occur under limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

There’s one sane choice in the midst of the climate crisis: Protect the land.
Humans will encroach on every piece of earth they can. They will suck dry every drop, ounce, particle of anything they deem more valuable than pristine land and the wildlife that inhabits it. We need to stand against our own kind. We need to stop the destruction. You need to stop the destruction and encourage others to do the same.

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Allowing remining in the area could cause irreperable environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining be stopped entirely, but should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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My father has a home just to the east of Johnson City, TN in North Carolina in these Appalachian mountains, where my brothers grew up, and where I formerly worked. When we are there, its the region's mountain top beauty in which we enjoy hiking, cross country skiing, and other outdoor pursuits. However, the ever increasing mountain top removal, other coal mining activity, faulty impoundment dam pollution, and coal-fired power plant emissions in the Appalachian region is just absolutely destroying this landscape, the air, the water quality, and the economic balance for more sustainable business. Coal and other fossil fuel mining is boom-bust, trapping workers in a cycle of poorly supported dependency in unsafe, unhealthy conditions.

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Renewable energy is a much better alternative to coal and other fossil fuel. Further develop the solar, wind, energy efficient design (and certain hydro-power or biomass fuels of varieties and siting that are
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Tennessee should not be HELD HOSTAGE to FEED THE GREED of POLLUTERS. It is PAST TIME to NATIONALIZE the DIRTY ENERGY industries who oppose our NATIONAL interests. See Norway
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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Please support Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Coal should remain in the ground instead of destroying natural beauty and contributing to global warming. Coal mining is irresponsible!

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It is past time to move on and really develop renewable sources of energy. The damage done by coal mining such as that being sought by the coal companies is the worst sort of source of any kind of energy. The result is reparable eventually long after all of us are dead and gone. It's not worth it.

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I live on a mountain top in another area of the country where there is little in the way of jobs. We have poverty or we have people employed by the forest service, or the local school, or people like me who can work via the internet. It can be hard, but I cannot imagine a single person, no matter how desperate, who would want the top of this wild beauty cut off. It's short sighted and not only destructive to the mountain, but to all of us - destroying our waterways and fouling our air.

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Coal is 19th century, oil and gas are 20th century. Time to get into the 21st. century.

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We heartily support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Please add OSM's approval to the request from Tennessee.

We believe Alternative 4 is most consistent with Tennessee's request that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for considering our comments.
I am an avid hiker and bird watcher in the Cumberland Plateau and my family comes from the foothills. I have recently given a small amount to protect the Cedars in Virginia on the Cumberland Plateau, which I have visited in different seasons, photographing plants and wildlife. These west of the blue ridge mountains are part of my annual eco-vacation destinations. I have also search for hellbender habitat in these areas.

We need to power our future permanently with wind power in the mountains not be destroying these mountains with one time coal removal which destroys the people's water sources and farm land and leaves no room for tourism jobs.

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I oppose re-mining the North Cumberland WMA and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement areas. Please do not allow this surface mining. There are so many other options in place of coal and other ways to produce energy, this should not be an option!

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The entire petition area should be designated as ‘Fragile Lands,’ because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated ‘very high’ for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.
As a concerned citizen, I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining, AND COAL IS NSUITABLE PERIOD! Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments. I have seen first hand the destruction left by coal companies. Congratulations to Tennessee for helping to save these valuable lands.
ID 3581 Please support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for allowing Tennessee to plan ahead!

ID 3582 I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining.

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This is very important to us. We are counting on you. Thank you.
Hard to believe we have another example of private enterprise trying again to ruin our national lands for a material that will end life as we know it due to climate change. WE DO NOT NEED MORE COLA - WE RENEWABLE ENERGY.

We are writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Let’s keep hazmat in the earth where it belongs so we don’t have to deal with it in the air we breathe. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

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I strongly urge the OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

More than 500 mountains and 1,200,000 acres of land in Appalachia have already been destroyed by surface mining. Right now, we have an important opportunity to stand up to coal companies and defend the mountains of Tennessee from more devastation. Last month, your Office issued a draft report approving the state of Tennessee’s request to protect ridgetops from destructive surface coal mining. If the state's request is approved, at least 67,000 acres in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area and Emory River Tract Conservation Easement would be preserved for future generations, and protected from coal extraction.

The proposal would protect vital headwaters that impact species living downstream, and drinking water supplies. Protecting these mountains would also maintain the integrity of state parks, wild and scenic rivers, and national recreation areas that support tourism and needed jobs and economic opportunity for a transitioning region. I understand the coal industry disagrees with this, despite the decline in the populations of 33 protected species in the area. We cannot let coal companies continue to profit at our expense. Please finalize a plan that protects our mountains, streams and wildlife from coal mining.
I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designated as unsuitable for mining.

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Tourism and recreation are critical parts of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee.

Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments. When it comes to the environment, it faces certain man-made threats. It's not just pollution and land development, but also drilling and mining. Allowing more of that will put wildlife, endangered and imperiled species, water supplies, landscapes and
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The State of Tennessee is clear and correct in its request to protect parts of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area from coal mining. Not only is the area completely inappropriate for coal extraction, but keeping coal in the ground is also a key to combating global climate change. The area is also important habitat for species already at risk, and important as watershed protection, both of which are not consistent with the level of environmental destruction created by surface mining. Please grant the request to designate these areas off-limits to coal extraction.

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Coal is on the decline so please reconsider what is being proposed. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Now is the time to wean ourselves off of coal, not to approve more mining. Protecting ourselves from Global Climate Change is what we need to be doing now, and that means ending the mining of coal.
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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
Surface coal mining is as damaging to an ecosystem as carpet bombing. I am certain that you yourself have seen the damage to mountain tops and streams, and the land in between, that has resulted from surface mining. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State’s intent in asking that ‘all ridge lines’ in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition. Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining. The entire petition area should be designated as ‘Fragile Lands,’ because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated ‘very high’ for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee’s 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan. Tourism and recreation is a critical part of the economic future of the region. Visitors to the four counties in the petition area spend $177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over $16 million in state and local tax receipts. Tourism is vital to the current and future economy of Tennessee. Supporting the State of Tennessee’s request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining would protect numerous rare, threatened and endangered species, would safeguard drinking water supplies, and would preserve the recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands. The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation’s natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state’s request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.
Once the watersheds are gone due to mining, the land dies. I am writing to ask OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

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But most importantly, coal mining is incompatible with new international goals just established in Paris toward reducing Global Climate Catastrophe. □

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No more mountain top coal mining, please!

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My grandfather was a coal miner in West Virginia. He did it because he had to make a living to support his family. I spent summers with family that lived there and I love the mountains and her people. People who live in the mountains have a deep attachment to where they live, and I would like to see the land that provides for them, preserved for many future generations. When the mountains are destroyed, they are gone forever, and it destroys communities too. Please preserve these beautiful wild places and find a better way to create jobs that do not also destroy communities and the environment we depend on for...
I am an attorney in Spokane, Washington. I have read extensively about the effects of mining by removing mountain tops. This form of mining is cost-efficient for coal companies, but disastrous for the environment. No coal mining should be permitted in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. I urge OSMRE to support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining.

Proposed Alternative 4 most closely represents the State's intent in asking that 'all ridge lines' in the Wildlife Management Area be designated unsuitable. This will provide the best protection for the lands and water quality and represents the clear intention of the State of Tennessee in filing this petition.

Allowing remining in the area could cause environmental damage and render protection of the area meaningless. Therefore, any remining should only occur under very limited circumstances and should not be an excuse to mine additional undisturbed mountainsides. Remining should only be allowed at most when there is consensus between the State and OSM that there are significant environmental or human health and safety problems that can only be fixed by remining and when the benefits of remining clearly outweigh the environmental harm. Parameters for remining should be very strict in an area that is otherwise designate as unsuitable for mining.

The entire petition area should be designated as 'Fragile Lands,' because the area contains natural resources that meet the legal definition and the area is rated 'very high' for habitat and species protection. Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special-status species in the petition area and the area contains vital headwaters that impact species living downstream. Additionally, coal mining in the petition area is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan.

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The approval of this forward-thinking petition provides a unique opportunity to safeguard the Cumberland Mountains, a special part of our nation's natural heritage. The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.
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state's request and protect the entirety of this important area for future generations.

As a resident of West Virginia I have seen first hand the destruction of the environment, communities
and people's health caused by surface mining for the past 50 years. It is long past time to put a stop to
this destructive practice and protect our lands and people.
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When are we ever going to learn that destroying the earth to make life easier for ourselves is going to result in the end of life as we know it. NO more!

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.
In addition to the enclosed form letter, we should be investing heavily in renewable energy sources, not expanding coal production. It's terrible for the economies near the mining sites, dangerous for the miners, destroys local wildlife habitats, and burning coal pollutes the air more than any other fossil fuel. We definitely don't need or want coal production in Tennessee.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Just as the Obama administration has put a halt to mining on federal lands, this new motion to mine in TN is rather unthinkable. We have the technology for other sources of energy. Keep private interests
I spend time every year enjoying the many miles of trails, the protected wildlife, and the unrivaled views this area has to offer. I find the overwhelming plan of disturbance to this beautiful area nothing less than a mindless act of greed, ignorance and malice. I typically side with energy production when it can be done without leaving massive scars, but something this vast and visible is unacceptable.

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Please don't allow mining to happen on this land.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; and covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification: that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those very limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining actually outweigh the damage that will be caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife and water quality. It will protect the people of the Region by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be protected and nurtured forever, not further exploited for individual profit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

H. Dennis Shumaker
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee’s request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I feel Alternative 4 provides the highest level of protection for the headwaters of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Take the lessons of recent polluting discharges as proof of our rivers.

Recreation is a critical part of the economic future for rural counties in Tennessee. No one wants to hike or paddle in an area marred by mining with polluted water.

Thank you.

Dear Mr. Bandy and OSMRE,

I am submitting written comments on the proposal designation NORTH CUMBERLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, TENNESSEE LANDS UNSUITABLE FOR MINING DRAFT PETITION EVALUATION DOCUMENT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, OSM-EIS-37. The draft PED/EIS-37 evaluates the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the State’s petition and its alternatives. OSMRE has identified alternative 3 as its preferred alternative. The draft petition evaluation document/ environmental impact statement (draft PED/EIS-37) was prepared by OSMRE’s Knoxville Field Office as required by section 522(d) of the SMCRA and in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and (42 USC§ 4332(2)(C)).

A better preferred alternative would be to "grant the state petition designation for a total of 569 miles of ridgelines and 76,133 acres while allowing only land Reclamation projects for AML Category 1, 2, and 3 and road access to sites."

I appreciate the work by OSMRE in the Draft NORTH CUMBERLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, TENNESSEE LANDS UNSUITABLE FOR MINING DRAFT PETITION EVALUATION DOCUMENT /ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, OSM-EIS-37. The draft PED/EIS-37 evaluates the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the State’s petition and its alternatives. I am thankful of this opportunity to submit comments of concerns. I am submitting written comments of concerns on the proposal designation NORTH CUMBERLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, TENNESSEE LANDS UNSUITABLE FOR MINING DRAFT PETITION EVALUATION DOCUMENT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, OSM-EIS-37. The draft PED/EIS-37 evaluates the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the State’s petition and its alternatives. OSMRE has identified alternative 3 as its preferred alternative. The draft petition evaluation document/ environmental impact statement (draft PED/EIS-37) was prepared by OSMRE’s Knoxville Field Office as required by section 522(d) of the SMCRA and in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and (42 USC§ 4332(2)(C)).
Even with SMCRA providing significant environmental protection from inherent impacts through its permitting requirements and performance standards. Nonetheless, although these impacts might be relatively unlikely to cause significant damage, if such damage did occur the risk to the draft EIS-37 petition area resources would be unacceptable.

Comments of concerns with Cross Ridge Mining to achieve water quality:

I found that the draft EIS-37 does not fully assess the inherent impacts which may occur in a cross ridge surface coal mining operation in compliance with SMCRA per allowable remining 30 CFR 701.5:

- Cross Ridge surface coal mining operations will cause removal of wildlife habitat within the mining area.
- Cross Ridge surface coal mining operations results in alterations of the soil and geologic structure.
- Cross Ridge surface coal mining operations does elevated levels of total dissolved solids in surface and ground water.
- Cross Ridge surface coal mining operations will increase sedimentation to the receiving stream from construction of drainage control structures and roads.
- Cross Ridge surface coal mining operations in the petition area and certain other parts of the petition area could have other impacts on fragile lands.
- Cross Ridge surface coal mining operations in the petition and in certain watersheds of the petition area would affect these fragile lands and could result in significant damage to the important natural systems, cultural values and esthetic values of these fragile lands.
- Cross Ridge surface coal mining operations in the petition area could cause significant damage to important natural systems of the petition area, including:
- Cross Ridge surface mining could impact the environmental corridor inside the petition area, and its ecological and esthetic features.
- Cross Ridge surface coal mining operations in the petition area in and outside the petition area could result in significant damage to the important esthetic values of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA)- comprised of the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area, the Sundquist Wildlife Management Area, and the New River Wildlife Management Area (also known as the Brimstone Tract Conservation Easement)-and the Emory
Before the 2-mile point, reach an overlook on the left of a deep ravine and seasonal waterfall. From here, the continuing climb out of the Cave Branch valley is moderate at first, providing opportunity to enjoy forest dominated by large maple, poplar, and beech, with occasional black gum and sassafras. Soon the grade steepens, and the trail proceeds up numerous switchbacks and curving turns.

Mile 2.2 (7.6) Reach an old logging track where the trail goes to the right up the hill.

Mile 2.4 (7.4) Shortly before this point cross an old ATV track.

Mile 2.5 (7.3) Finally, arrive at the southeast end of the ridge dividing Cave Branch and Bowling Branch for an elevation gain from the trailhead of about 1,280 feet. An old track goes both ways at this point—the trail bears left along it for a pleasant half-mile stroll along the ridgetop with little elevation change. Be sure to stay on the main trail when the old track diverges downhill to the right in a few hundred feet.

Mile 2.8 (7.0) Spring wildflowers in this area include mayapple, false Solomon’s seal, spotted mandarin, doll’s eyes, bloodroot, and wood anemone. Shortly ahead, intersect another ATV track that goes sharply downhill on right. Continue forward on trail along the ridgetop. Fall colors are particularly outstanding along the entire ridge.

Mile 3.0 (6.8) Arrive at a massive ridgetop remnant of two stacked rocks at least 25 feet high. This would be a good Leave No Trace camping spot, though evidence remains of earlier campers. No water here. A few hundred feet ahead, another ATV track diverges downhill to the left. Continue forward along the ridgetop.

Mile 3.2 (6.6) Walk below an interesting maze of rock outcrops along the ridge on your left.

Mile 3.3 (6.5) Reach the northwest end of the ridge and begin a moderate-to-steep descent on switchbacks toward Bowling Branch. Pass several large, isolated boulders that evidently tumbled from the ridge above. Take care in a few hundred feet to follow the trail sharply left on a switchback, avoiding the ATV track.

Mile 3.4 (6.4) The descent on switchbacks continues. Cross a small log bridge, encountering a seasonal creek that you’ll cross several more times on steppingstones. Also watch for another sharp left in the trail ahead, where another old ATV track goes right.

Mile 3.6 (6.2) Along this segment of the trail watch for cooler species of wildflowers and ferns in season on this northeast-facing slope, including wild ginger, jack-in-the-pulpit, and

3620 Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands—- for both those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result — and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as “fragile lands” because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please — do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.
I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Keep coal mining companies from poisoning the Cumberlands.

I have seen the ugly scars that strip mining has left in Ohio and would hate to see the beautiful state of Tennessee suffer the same fate. These are "Public Lands" that should not go to private companies.
I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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The world doesn't need more coal and it is not worth the risk to this precious ecosystem.

Dear OSMRE Officials,

I fully support the Tennessee petition for full protection of the Cumberland mountains and their watersheds from further development or mining. These were some of the first mountains I ever hiked in. They must be preserved for other species and generations to follow.
I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. So much of our wilderness has already been ruined by mining, drilling, development, and man.

Enough is enough!
The wilderness is supposed to be a place of peace and quiet for us, and the wildlife which live in it!
The animals are running out of places to live and be safe. Our wildlife are under threat from so many angles. They desperately need to be protected, mainly from humans.
Life is hard enough for people, let alone the animals.
Can't we please offer them some much needed help?!
PLEASE save the Cumberlands wilderness for all future generations before it is permanently ruined. Some damage cannot be undone!

Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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We've seen what has happened in West Virginia and elsewhere.
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**Please protect this area from Big Coal!**

I want to let you know that this is important not just to people who live near those mountains, but to so many others - - such as myself - - who need to know that our planet, our nation, is not being ripped apart for fossil fuels. Or for any other reason. This is the only world we have, we need to preserve it.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.
I wish to express my STRONG support of Tennessee's petition to protect ALL Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect HUNDREDS of rare and imperiled species. It will also protect drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Thank you for considering my thoughts on this issue that is very important to me and so many others who highly value our diverse wildlife and habitats and believe they deserve our full protection.

Sincerely,

DUMP THE COAL, PROTECT THE LAND AND WILDLIFE.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

Sincerely,

DUMP THE COAL, PROTECT THE LAND AND WILDLIFE.
I grew up in Middle Tennessee. Most of my family lives there. I have always loved the mountains and thought that they are very beautiful. It would be a huge travesty to destroy them for all future generations for their value is greater than the little bit of coal beneath them. There are better less destructive ways to mine coal than blowing up mountains.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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It is the right thing to do. Don't believe me? Make a personal, anonymous visit so special interests don't know you are there and see for yourself how important and special this area truly is. Coal is a dying fuel. Don't subsidize an industry that needs to go by the wayside. Solar, wind is the future, along with other renewables.
I have traveled all over our country. I remember some places, but not all. 30 years ago I spent a vacation in the Cumberland Gap area. The sights and the wildlife were amazing. I remember this very well because I was so impressed. Please do everything you can to protect some of the most beautiful and diverse regions east of the Mississippi.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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In addition, I live in the E. TN mountains and have witnessed the devastation, the illnesses of residents caused by toxins from the run off of coal waste, who are victimized by BIG COAL companies. I know first hand what this type of mining does to the residents and their homes and their health. It's a travesty and needs to stop taking advantage of the people native to the region. Please do everything you can to quickly finalize protection for our mountains.
Some of my favorite people in the world live in Tennessee and because of that I'm always concerned when I hear about threats to water quality in the state. I would like now to express my support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species, safeguard drinking water supplies, & preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural, and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please work to quickly finalize protection for this area.

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Keep the coal in the ground. Our Earth is in your hands!
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Michael Pollack

Coal mining is a dying industry. It is being replaced by solar, wind and thermal and will continue to be replaced in the future at a rapidly expanding rate. It is a dirty, destructive energy resource, a relic of the nineteenth and eighteenth centuries, a crude leftover from the "industrial revolution." Burning coal pollutes air and destroys lungs. There is no justification for fostering continued dependence on coal extraction and coal burning to supply energy needs anywhere in the US.

As if the burning of coal were not toxic and destructive enough, the mining of coal damages the environment, destroying mountaintops, waterways and foliage, displacing and threatening endangered species, and, again, damages lungs. Please act as responsible stewards of the environment and protectors of American citizens, not as servants to the ruthless greed of corporate coal interests, who would gladly decimate the environment and kill any number of people, disrupt any group of communities, to benefit their bottom lines. Please oppose this ill-conceived "plan," which is a plan for destruction, not preservation or enhancement. Wildlife management demands preservation and enhancement, not destruction to feed corporate greed. I think you know this. Please have the courage and commitment to follow your higher instincts and do what you know is the morally right thing to do and oppose this land grab by one of capitalism's oldest, dirtiest and most unethical industries. Thank you for opposing this cynical and destructive proposal.
LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Jennifer DiRenzo

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I am a print journalist and Vietnam War veteran. The coal industry is dead. People are divesting from oil and coal faster than America can kill one million Iraqis and steal their oil. I am asking you please to protect these environmentally sensitive areas from industrial parasites who leave a trail of dead organisms behind them with every footstep they take.

The coal industry is dying faster than one can imagine. Do your job please and protect one living thing which might just protect another ecosystem from collapsing. Have a great day.
<table>
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<th>ID</th>
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<tr>
<td>3644</td>
<td>Dear OSMRE Officials,&lt;br&gt;I grew up in the mountains of the Cumberland, a beautiful part of our great country and want to protect its natural beauty.&lt;br&gt;I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.&lt;br&gt;Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as &quot;fragile lands&quot; because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3645</td>
<td>Dear OSMRE Officials,&lt;br&gt;As a regular visitor to Tennessee, I fully support this proposal. In the long run, our natural resources and bio-diversity are worth far more than a one-time benefit from coal mining.&lt;br&gt;I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.&lt;br&gt;Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as &quot;fragile lands&quot; because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.</td>
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Dear OSMRE Officials,

Once again someone somewhere is allowing oversized and outdated corporations to endanger and destroy our nation. This time it's in Tennessee.

I grew up in those mountains and have been inspired by their beauty. I have learned much about our natural world there. I learned to build a fire without accelerants and then how to cook a meal over it. I learned how to stay warm and dry when surprised by bad weather. I made life long friends there and I have spent precious final moments with loved ones there.

The sin of destroying such a location has no place in this country any longer. We must stop this and become the leaders in innovation that we once were.

The time for mining fossil fuels is over. You know and we know it. It is long past time for your operation to be dismantled and put to bed. Forever.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Coal, as an energy source for America, is on it’s way out thankfully. It is dirty to burn and has terrible ramifications due to the mining practices. Land preservation is important. If these ridge and mountains are destroyed, they are gone forever. And along with that loss will be the enjoyment of these spectacular natural areas for us, our children, and for all future generations. Let's not let these natural resources be destroyed forever.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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I am already a victim of Coal Ash Pollution in my well water and drinking that polluted water helped to make my daughter as sick as she is today!!!!!!!!! WE NEED TO STOP USING COAL PERIOD!!!!!!!!! MUCH LESS WHAT THIS COAL COMPANY WANTS TO DO TO OUR ALREADY POLLUTED ENVIRONMENT!!!!!!! EVERY SINGLE HUMAN BEING ON THIS PLANET HAS TO HAVE CLEAN AIR AND WATER TO LIVE and clean soil TO GROW THE FOOD WE EAT IN!!!!!!!!! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!!!!!!

No more coal - its becoming a thing of the past.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

Please keep Tennessee one of the most beautiful states in the lower 48. I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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We (our entire family) are in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. Plus it will safeguard drinking water supplies, and fresh water is becoming scarce. The protection will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands; not only for residents of Tennessee, but also for the millions who vacation, hike and visit from all over the USA and from other countries!

We urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any re-mining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all.

The "petition area" should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The fresh water springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, while providing essential corridors to assist wildlife adaptation to climate change. Please, do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special pristine area.
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We (our entire family) are in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. Plus it will safeguard drinking water supplies, and fresh water is becoming scarce. The protection will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands; not only for residents of Tennessee, but also for the millions who vacation, hike and visit from all over the USA and from other countries.

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Sincerely,
Lynn Wilson

If you don't fully understand the evil, horrific impact of strip mining, read John Grisham's 'GRAY MOUNTAIN." Coal companies are earth and people killers, no doubt about it.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

Please stand against Big Coal. We all need to do everything we can to make the accord at Paris a reality, and it is only a start! We do NOT need more coal in our lives; we need to retrain all those miners so that they can work in the much better-for-all-of-us fields of renewable energies and leave the remaining coal in the ground.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Please ensure the implementation of protection for all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. These areas are unsuitable for surface mining and must be designated as such in order to protect hundreds of rare and endangered species. It will also safeguard drinking water sources and preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will also safeguard drinking water, preserve Tennessee's public lands for recreational, cultural and scientific activities.

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I grew up in Tennessee. My Mother lives there and I hope to return there some day. I am also an avid fisherman and naturalist. It makes a big difference to me how a state protects its natural resources. I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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We have plans to retire in the NE corner of TN on one of those "ridges"; we have already purchased land there! WE LOVE THE CLEAN AIR, PURE WATER, and ORGANIC FARMING. THAT IS WHAT WE WANT TO PRESERVE. PLEASE DO NOT RUIN ANOTHER PIECE OF THIS EARTH FOR MINING COAL or OIL WHEN WE ARE ABOUT TO EVOLVE INTO CLEAN ENERGY. PLEASE DO NOT CONSIDER MINING AT ALL IN TENNESSEE!

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Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Coal never sent out an invitation to dig it out of the bowels of Earth; it was discovered a long, long time ago that coal burns and, in so doing, it cooks food, brings warmth, etc. Unfortunately, it is dirty and hazardous to everyone that has to inhale its dust before burning or afterward. Please do whatever is necessary to put a cap on this atrocity that will destroy the Tennessee Cumberland Mountains. All mountains have their own beauty. Once lost, never seen or admired again. And all life that called those mountains home will no longer exist. Shame on all of us if we allow this to happen!

I HOPE THE DESTROYERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO EAT AND DRINK DOLLARS
Dear OSMRE Officials,

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Remember, we are trying to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels!
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as “fragile lands” because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

Sincerely, Robert A. Slezak

Please protect these natural areas from coal mining and promote alternative energy sources such as solar and wind... Using coal is ancient and destructive to the environment... not to mention it has a deleterious effect on those upwind from where the coal is burned...

As a recent visitor to the Tennessee mountains, I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. These are incredibly special wild places. Designating them as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species, safeguard water supplies, and preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. In addition the petition area should be designated as “fragile lands” because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change.

Please do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

With thanks
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I very strongly urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any re-mining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. I, personally, ask that no mining at all be approved.

It will never be like it was before being mined. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area. I love the Tennessee hills!

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do EVERYTHING in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area - - I am COUNTING on you.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I very strongly urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any re-mining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area. No mining at all is what will protect these areas!

While working on my Ph.D. at University of Tennessee/Knoxville, I was conducting research in the coal communities and saw the devastation of surface coal mining. Now, I'm a college professor teaching Environmental Injustice and my students and I continued to study the threats from surface mining on waterways, the land itself, and the communities. Please protect Tennessee’s 67,000 acres of Cumberland mountain tops. Thank you.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

PROTECT YOUR BEAUTIFUL CUMBERLAND MOUNTAINS BEFORE COAL DOES TO THEM WHAT IT DID TO WEST VIRGINIA! OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND FORESTS AREN'T SAFE FROM THE THREAT OF FILTHY, DEMOLISHING COAL MINING - AND NEITHER IS TENNESSEE, UNLESS THOSE IN CONTROL ACT NOW.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

WE MUST SAVE OUR NATURAL LANDSCAPE AND NOT DESTROY IT BY STRIP MINING.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

As a neighbor of the Cumberlands in the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains, I am fully aware of the threats to the biodiversity in this region. The value extends far beyond these mountain ridges and is our responsibility to protect.

As a land owner in the Cumberland Plateau, who cares deeply about the future of the Cumberland area, I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

FOSSIL FUELS ARE KILLING THIS PLANET, AND SOONER OR LATER CIVILIZATION WILL COLLAPSE. THIS IS NOT A JOKE, AND IT'S COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK! FOSSIL FUELS = DEATH!!

As an emeritus member of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS), I fully support TN's petition to protect all Cumberland Mt. ridgelines & their connecting stream corridors. Designating these as unsuitable for surface mining will protect 100s of now rare & imperiled species of plants & animals. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. It will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural & scientific value of TN's public lands for those who consider them their backyard, & all who hope to visit.

I ask OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines, & their stream corridors, extending to & connecting with the stream corridors in the N. Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Approval of remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state & your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result, & must be very rarely approved, if at all. The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened, & endangered species. Springs & other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats & species, providing essential corridors enabling wildlife adapt to climate change.

Please quickly finalize protection for this special area.

References:

www.globalchange.gov/usimpaacts, cosponsored by US Dept of State

Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area. Stop mining coal! It’s the worst form of energy!

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area. So many species on earth are suffering. Here is a real chance to save rare and imperilled species! Thank you.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

Greed is destroying this planet and soon nothing and no one will be left!!!

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

I, for one, cannot wait to go back to Tennessee and specifically to visit the Cumberland Mountains. I think it is important to preserve areas like these - to protect them - for all of us, not just the people of Tennessee.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

It is a headless thought that land not in commercial use is without value. This land is precious way beyond short term monetary value of its minerals. Save it forever. Thank you.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any re-mining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as “fragile lands” because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

I strongly support Tennessee’s petition that designates Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors to the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining.

This is crucial for safeguarding drinking water supplies, preserving Tennessee’s outstanding recreational and outdoors economy, and ecosystems - which harbor many threatened or endangered species.

I support the Center for Biological Diversity's expertise on this: "Approval of any re-mining in the designated area should be limited to situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. The petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. Springs and other headwater sources are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change."
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Preserve the environment and the animals. Keep coal in the ground and work on renewable sources of energy. Thank you for considering my opinion.

As environmental educator and field biologist, a parent, and a citizen who cares deeply about conservation and preserving biodiversity, I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit, like I do.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Amphibians already are declining in population due to a fungus, loss of habitat, and the stresses of climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

When coal operations can prove that can be and then be more responsible in their ongoing actions, I will support coal.

I grew up here and would not like to see it ruined.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change.

I am a public school teacher in Tennessee; have been teaching high school environmental science for 17 years. The central dogma of this course demonstrates the many reasons for protecting habitat and biodiversity. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

As a citizen of Tennessee, I am writing in full support of the petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change.

I am a public school teacher in Tennessee; have been teaching high school environmental science for 17 years. The central dogma of this course demonstrates the many reasons for protecting habitat and biodiversity. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.
I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

The coal industry has done enough destruction to this planet, that may never recover. Give them the 67,000 acres. It is the least these exploiters of this Planet can do. It is the right thing to do.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit. As a retired Professor of Biology who spent seven years in Tennessee I implore the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to designate these mountains unsuitable for surface mining. The tremendous diversity of plants and animals makes this area a treasure that should be protected at all costs.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

Please know that I support Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit. Most important, it will protect living ecosystems, and the lives of many organisms, and so is a "true" pro-life cause.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in FULL SUPPORT of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Thank YOU Sincerely,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit. I grew up in East Tennessee and love the mountains in Tennessee. Please protect them!

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.
The remaining wilder areas in the US need protection. We can no longer tolerate the rapacious mining practices of the past.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

As someone who cherishes her Tennessee heritage and the state's magnificent natural wonders, I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Correspondence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3697</td>
<td>Losing these wonderful ridgelines and all the natural flora and fauna would be forever. That must not happen.</td>
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<td>It is time we grow up and start being responsible. Why in heaven would we do this. Of course big coal wants big profits at the expense of people and the environment, but we are supposes to be above the GREED and do the right thing. Just because they are trying to tell people, via TV ads, that Gas Oil and Coal are a good investment - IT IS NOT. STOP THE PROPAGANDA.</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I ALSO BELIEVE THAT GOD APPRECIATES US PRESERVING AS MUCH OF HIS ORIGINAL HANDIWORK AS POSSIBLE!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear OSMRE Officials,

The mountains are more important than any company's profit. Just stop.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit. Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

Please preserve the rights of water, waterways and our health.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit. Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

As a parent, early childhood educator and advocate, and person of faith, I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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This is a good plan and I support full protection for the Cumberlands.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

IN MY PARTICULAR CASE, I AM A TENNESSEE CHEROKEE INDIAN AND THIS IS MY ANCESTRAL HOME! I AM DEPENDING ON YOU TO PROTECT IT, PLEASE.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am a native of East Tennessee and I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies, and it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural, and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - for those who consider them their backyard as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area. It really is necessary. Please!

I vacation in those beautiful mountains and you will be doing a disservice to the flora and fauna of the mountains as well to tourism. The devastation to the environment sometimes can't be undone.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Keep dirt coal in the ground! Save our beautiful woods and clear streams for our grandchildren! I hike the Appalachian Trail and enjoy the beauty and splendor of the backcountry! I will introduce my grandchildren to it! Save all of it that you can!

TENNESSEE WITH OUT MOUNTAINS??!! STOP MINNING, ETC. BEFORE TENN. BECOMES THE DESERT OF THE EAST COAST.
Dear OSMRE Officials,

The options exist. We must find a way to stop the cloud of greed from distorting our perception of the future. It will be a dark time for our children at this pace. We need change to even have a chance to begin to course correct our environmental crisis. "The path towards sustainable energy sources will be long and sometimes difficult. But America cannot resist this transition; we must lead it...That is how we will maintain our economic vitality and our national treasure—our forests and waterways; our croplands and snowcapped peaks." ~President Obama in his second inaugural address.

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Keep all of the coal in the ground,

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Preserving land is essential if we are to survive as a species. Once land is destroyed in the name of development it can never be fully restored. We are already in dangerous and unexplored territory - witness the strange weather, particularly the severe storms of recent year. We must either alter our course or risk disaster on an unprecedented scale.

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Dear OSMRE Officials,

Has big coal not destroyed enough of our environment? Why in the world would Tennessee allow more damage done to their state? ENOUGH blasting and polluting - The state of Tennessee needs no more mining - No more destruction!

I am writing because the Cumberland Mountains are one of the most beautiful special places in the world. I first traveled to Tennessee to enroll in graduate school at Vanderbilt University in the 1970's. I fell in love with Tennessee, especially East Tennessee and its mountains. I ended up working in and exploring much of the State. I camped and hiked all over the Cumberland Mountains. I deplored the damages done by unregulated (and regulated) strip mining. I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Dear OSMRE Officials,

I absolutely support Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit, like me.

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Thank you for your time!

Dear OSMRE Officials,

I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

Dear OSMRE Officials,

What are we doing to our country? I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee’s public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Dear OSMRE Officials,

It is past time to seriously step up ending our dependence on the fossil fuels that are killing our planet.

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As a documentary photographer, I've seen and recorded the natural and human damage of coal and the corrupt political system that supports this horrible excuse for an industry. The world needs clean, renewable energy, which is the way of the future - - the future that so much of our emerging technology has embraced. Coal is a barbaric source of energy. We need forested mountains, clear streams and tourism far more than we need to be despoiling nature and humanity with yet more damage from this dinosaur of an industry.

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I am a retired chemical engineer well acquainted with the science and the machinations of the (fortunately) dying coal industry and am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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I grew up in East Tennessee, spending summers hiking in the Cumberlands and Smokies. Our mountains area vital natural heritage that must be preserved and reclaimed. Please finalize full protections for the Cumberlands.

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MORE SOLAR & WIND! PROTECT ALL OF GOD'S CRITTERS !!!

As a person who cares about the Cumberland Mountains ecosystem, and about the lives of the people of Tennessee, I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must not be approved. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

I also urge you to designate other protected areas in west Tennessee as unfit for mining, which are recharge areas for the Mississippi Embayment aquifer system - the source of drinking water for all of west Tennessee. Currently, non-coal surface mining is removing the essential drinking water filter (sand and gravel) and threatening or polluting drinking water sources in several areas in west Tennessee. Designating these areas as unsuitable for mining will protect the region's drinking water source in perpetuity.

Dear OSMRE Officials,

I am a retired science teacher. I spent thirty one years teaching Biology, Environmental Earth Science and Wildlife Management classes in the public school systems of three states. My education was first as a Biologist, teaching came later. I have a Master of Science degree in Biology. As a biologist I am concerned with the effects our large human population is having on the sustainability of our Earth's life support systems. Although there are some impressive natural systems that help to stabilize the living environment on our planet, there are limits to how much abuse these systems can withstand. The fossil records show that in the past there have been several major disruptions of these systems.

Today the biggest threat to our space ship Earth comes from the activities of us humans. Our continued population growth combined with the crazy notion that there must always be an expanding economy is a sure-fired prescription for disaster. Misguided economic policies are in direct conflict with the natural limits of Earth. Our finite planet can not provide unlimited resources to allow us to continue on the path we are on.

We must make decisions based on sound ecological principles if we are to bequeath our children and grandchildren with a place to live that is both sustainable and interesting. It will be a tragedy of monstrous proportions if our shortsighted way of making decisions degrades the world that our children inherit. The wonderful diversity of living creatures and wild unspoiled natural places must be preserved for them. It seems that we are unaware that the wild natural places are the ultimate infrastructure of the planet. Our present economic systems of continued growth are nothing more than a Ponzi scheme in which our decedents will be left with nothing of value.

I am writing today to request that you help address one of the issues that will affect future generations, including our two sons and our wonderful six year old granddaughter. Please try to throw off the short term considerations and take action that will address the long term welfare of humankind. The welfare of all of our children are depending on us.

I am in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who
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Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

Honestly, never in my life have I seen entities who flagrantly IGNORE the science behind 'the ecology and science of conservation.' Pretending/ignoring the facts of conservation of biodiversity is not bliss. Please remember, humanity created nothing but relies on everything that has been created. Let's Not Forget That Fact.

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I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state’s request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

It would be unconscionable to allow surface stripping for coal on the ridges of the Cumberlands that allows mining waste to contaminate an entire diverse ecosystem unique to Tennessee makes absolutely no sense.
I totally support the Tennessee petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors.

Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will:

* Protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species,
* Safeguard drinking water supplies and,
* Preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands for all Americans.

In particularly, I urge the OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

The approval of any re-mining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation is possible and must be rigorous monitored, with substantial penalties for non-compliance.

In addition, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, including our own. They also provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change.

Finally, it makes no sense to endanger this fragile, pristine area for a dirty fossil fuel that is being replaced by cleaner alternative energy sources, including domestic renewables such as wind, solar and biomass.

On behalf of Tennessee's and America's natural heritage, please do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

I recently stole a day out of a business trip to hike these mountains. My first thought at the end of the day was when could I come back?

We're already all experiencing the weird weathers of climate change. Removing mountain ranges has already made weather more unpredictable in states that historically didn't get tornados. Please let them set this aside.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee's petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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Also, recognize that in protecting these lands, you also help protect the world's climate by keeping fossil carbon in the ground and plants thriving on the surface.

Protecting the Earth's diversity of species is a must for this grand biosphere, this planet is unlike anything we might find out in space in a fantastic far-flung future.

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Specifically, I urge OSMRE to support the state's request to designate as protected both the ridgelines and their stream corridors extending to and connecting with the stream corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The approval of any remining within the designated area must be limited to only those situations where the state and your agency agree that genuine environmental remediation will result - - and must be very rarely approved, if at all. Also, the petition area should be designated as "fragile lands" because of the habitat it provides for rare, threatened and endangered species. The springs and other headwater sources here are essential to the health of downstream habitats and species, and they provide essential corridors to help wildlife adapt to climate change. Please - - do everything in your power to quickly finalize protection for this special area.

Even though I don't currently live in Tennessee, I do call it home and love the mountains of East Tennessee. Please protect them.
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Hasn't there been more than enough mountain destruction? Stop the madness. We have changed to much of the demographics of this country and it needs to stop. There MUST be a limit that this earth can take.

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I'm writing to express my support for the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition. I am a biologist and PhD student at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, and I study the ecology and evolution of amphibians that rely upon these natural lands. I fully recognize the difficulty of balancing the needs of industry and the preservation of nature, and but I think we too often err on the side of industry. I admit that my education on the issue isn't complete, but I urge OSMRE to consider the permanent legacy this petition could leave for the flora and fauna of the region. This seems to be a good opportunity for our state to grant the natural world a win.

I first heard about this petition from the Center for Biological Diversity, so I am leaving their message below.

I am writing in full support of Tennessee’s petition to protect all Cumberland Mountain ridgelines and their connecting stream corridors. Designating these areas as unsuitable for surface mining will protect hundreds of rare and imperiled species. It will safeguard drinking water supplies. And it will preserve the outstanding recreational, cultural and scientific value of Tennessee's public lands - - for those who consider them their backyard, as well as all who hope to someday visit.

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I believe that all mining activities should be banned.

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.
Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

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This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

It is the position of the Sierra Club's Cumberland Chapter to support the State's Petition Deeming the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Unsuitable for Surface Mining.

We believe tourism to be a far more sustainable industry than mining, and believe the State of Tennessee is right to try and protect the area that brings the state $177.4 Million per year, while providing more than 1,400 jobs.

We would also admonish the State to consider limiting mining of old sites, and only in situations where Tennessee, and the Office of Surface Mining identify environmental problems that can only be fixed by re-mining.

Additionally, we feel the entire petition area should be designated as fragile lands because:

The area is very high for habitat protection.

Coal mining is a primary cause of declining populations for 33 special status species.

We need to account for the impact on species living downstream of the petition area.

OSMs Draft EIS determined that the petition area contains natural resources that meet the fragile lands definition.
Dear Sir/Madam:

Please accept these comments from the Tennessee Environmental Council on the State's Petition to declare ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as Lands Unsuitable for Mining. The Council is one of the Intervenors in the Petition filed by the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) on behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association and others. These comments are in addition to comments prepared by SELC for the Intervenors.

The Council is a forty-five year old statewide organization whose mission is to educate and advocate for the conservation and improvement of Tennessee's environment, communities, and public health. Council members recreate in the North Cumberland Wildlife Area, hiking trails, and paddling the streams that lead into the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The Council recognizes these lands as fragile, within the definition, and the wildlife corridors as important ecologically.

The Council supports the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgeline corridors in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface coal mining. We believe Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land and water quality; however we have grave concerns about allowing remining. There should be a presumption against remining. An exception for "remining" could create a giant loophole that could render much of the protection meaningless.

Most of the damage that would be the subject of a mining request is from pre-SMCRA mining. Over these past more than thirty years, the water quality in most of the streams so affected has vastly improved. Areas with what might have been dangerous high walls have largely now been reforested. Disturbing these areas by allowing "remining" under the guise of environmental benefit by reclamation would in fact incur new damage to the fragile areas and set back what is an improving environmental landscape. There is very little acid mine drainage in this area.

We strongly urge that if any remining is allowed, it should only be allowed under certain specified criteria, such as a significant and verifiable current and ongoing environmental injury, and only after public notice and comment.

The Office of Surface Mining should grant the state's request and protect the natural beauty, special
Dear Mr. Bandy:

The National Mining Association (NMA) submits the following comments on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's (OSM) draft petition evaluation document and environmental impact statement (PED/EIS) for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area petition to find certain lands unsuitable for surface coal mining operations. NMA is a national trade association that includes the producers of most of the nation's coal, metals, industrial and agricultural minerals; the manufacturers of mining and mineral processing machinery, equipment and supplies; and the engineering and consulting firms, financial institutions and other firms serving the mining industry. NMA has a longstanding interest in the proper administration of SMCRA's lands unsuitable provisions, and has previously filed comments on a similar petition, including some of the same areas, in 2006. A copy of our 2006 comments is attached for the record of this proceeding. NMA also filed comments on the petition at issue in 2011 and incorporates those comments by reference. In addition, NMA endorses and incorporates by reference the current and former comments of the Tennessee Mining Association (TMA) regarding this petition.

I. Introduction

Designation of the petition area would render 67,326 acres of land unsuitable and unavailable for all surface coal mining operations. NMA strongly opposes the petition by the former Governor of Tennessee, and urges OSM not to designate the lands identified as unsuitable for mining under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). NMA believes that any proposed designation for lands unsuitable for mining of this scope and magnitude, as evidenced by the shortcomings of the petition, is inappropriate and cannot be made in a manner consistent with SMCRA's requirements for such designations. Furthermore, the petition on which OSM's current evaluation and EIS alternatives rely has several flaws which have not been remedied since the time of filing and which infect the current proposal to designate the lands as unsuitable for

Dear LUM Petition Administrative Officer,

I support the State of Tennessee's request to designate all ridgelines in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as unsuitable for surface mining; covering all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors.

I strongly support Alternative 4 with a critical modification that any re-mining of old sites in the area should be approved ONLY in those limited cases where the State of Tennessee and OSMRE agree that the safety and/or environmental benefits of re-mining outweigh the damage caused by re-mining.

This modified Alternative 4 will provide the best protection for the land, wildlife, and water quality. It will protect the people by providing the opportunity for a more sustainable recreation and tourism-based economy in the future. These mountains can and should be forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Catherine Anderson

Protect this beautiful land and remember, once it's gone it's gone forever!!!!!