



**2012 Park Support  
Friends of the Smokies Needs List**

**Resource Management**

**Prepare Three Historic Structure Reports for Elkmont**

**\$ 60,000**

Prior to historic preservation work, a consultant completes a history of the building and examines the current condition. Based on their findings, they write a prescription concerning things to be removed, taken down, and stabilized. These reports will be written for all 19 buildings to be preserved in Elkmont before restoration work proceeds. This year reports will be done on the Baumann, Galyon and Scruggs/Brisco cabins.

**Monitoring Brook Trout Following Restoration at Lynn Camp Prong**

**\$ 11,000**

The Smokies used chemicals to remove non-native rainbow trout from Lynn Camp Prong in 2008 in order to improve the odds for re-establishing native brook trout. This project supports a follow-up sampling effort to measure the recovery of brook trout and to search for any residual non-natives.

**Suppress Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Infestation**

**\$ 30,000**

Since 2003, Friends of the Smokies has had a leadership role in supporting the most ambitious program in the Southeast aimed at protecting hemlocks from the invasive and deadly hemlock woolly adelgid. To date, more than 140,000 individual hemlock trees have been hand-treated, and more than 4,400 acres of hemlock-dominated forest have been set aside as special conservation areas. The eastern hemlock is the only shade-tolerant conifer in the Smokies, and its helps to regulate forest and stream temperatures to support the habitat of a myriad of other species including brook trout and migratory birds. In 2011 an additional 500 acres of conservation areas were treated. Protection includes a combination of soap spraying in the front country, systemic pesticides in more remote areas and biological control using predator beetles raised in the Lindsay Young Beneficial Insect Lab at UT. Funds provide supplies and temporary employees working through fall 2011 and early winter 2012

**Maintain Protection of Fraser Firs at Purchase Knob**

**\$ 2,500**

Since 1962, the balsam woolly adelgid, an exotic predatory European insect, has killed 91% of the Park's naturally-occurring stands of high-elevation Fraser firs. The Park and UT planted 600 seedlings at the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center at Purchase Knob in 1995. While some of these trees have been attacked by the balsam woolly adelgid, they are treated annually with sprays and pesticides to preserve samples of the trees' genetic material, which is important for species preservation. Park staff is hopeful that these will assist in future repopulation of firs.

**Support Bear Management and Hog Reduction**

**\$ 34,300**

Provides seasonal park staff to manage wildlife and public safety issues. Activities include working traffic jams that result from bear sightings along park roadways to reducing the population of wild hogs which are invasive, disease-carrying destroyers of the park's ecosystem.

**Support Appalachian Bear Rescue (ABR)****\$ 10,000**

Each year a number of orphaned or injured Park bears are treated and housed in the nonprofit ABR center in Townsend until they can be released back into the Park. Prior to the creation of ABR, most of these animals were euthanized. At this time the ABR is home to a record of at least 23 orphaned cubs and injured animals from throughout the Southeast including six orphaned cubs from the Smokies most of whose mothers had been hit by vehicles or taken by hunters outside the Park.

**Reduce Backcountry Bear Problems with Food Storage Cable Systems****\$ 4,000**

Each backcountry campsite and shelter has a pulley and cable system which campers are required to use to hoist their food and packs out of the reach of bears for the increased safety of both visitors and bears. Each year a number of these systems are damaged through use or by falling trees and must be replaced.

**Install Elk Exclosures to Monitor Impacts on Park Vegetation****\$ 3,000**

One requirement of the Park's long-term Elk Management Plan is the continued monitoring of elk impacts on vegetation. These fenced plots keep elk out to allow botanists to compare the plant composition of grazed vs. un-grazed plots to determine what species are consumed and to what degree.

**Park-wide SCA (Student Conservation Association) Interns for Resource Management and Science Activities****\$ 83,850**

These 23 interns will spray for hemlock woolly adelgids, eradicate non-native plants, sample stream for brook trout, help trap problem bears, work on archeological digs, and assist with research activities. These interns get an enormous amount of work experience while providing a huge amount of cost-effective labor. A large proportion of the Park's later seasonal employees and many permanent staffers "cut their teeth" as interns. This funding provides a small living allowance and Park housing to these young people who come from all over the U.S.

**Resource Education****Support Park-wide Parks as Classrooms and Expand in Blount County****\$ 116,939**

Approximately 18,000 students every year in Tennessee and North Carolina receive curriculum-based environmental education opportunities through the Parks as Classroom program. These hands-on, ranger-led lessons utilizing Great Smoky Mountains National Park as an enormous outdoor classroom help foster a love for nature and inform the next generation of park supporters. The curriculum requirements for Blount County Middle Schools has changed so new PAC curriculum will be developed and middle schoolers added to the program.

**Expand Educational Outreach****\$ 140,778**

Additional funding for environmental education will go to expand Parks as Classrooms as well as the Junior Ranger program and the Not-So-Junior Ranger program. The expansion also includes conducting teacher workshops and hiring high school interns. Funding for this initiative is from Toyota Motor Sales North America as part of a \$1 million education grant.

<b>Empower Science Teachers through Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>
The goal is improved science education capability. Teachers from area high schools become seasonal employees in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. They learn the science of the park, and go back and teach their students. Funding for this initiative is made possible by a grant from Alcoa.	
<b>Add Seasonal Air-quality Programs at Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center</b>	<b>\$ 4,120</b>
The Learning Center at Purchase Knob will offer new programs for area students regarding the impacts of ozone and other pollutants on Park resources. This will fund a seasonal to conduct those activities.	
<b>Revisit Interior Design at Sugarlands Visitor Center</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
The Sugarlands Visitor Center is laid out in a configuration that often causes visitors to overlook the natural resource exhibits in the museum area. The Park wants to contract for a study to look at some ways that the space could be re-aligned to make visitors aware of all its offerings.	
<b><u>Facilities Management</u></b>	
<b>Cataloochee Visitor Amenities</b>	<b>\$ 16,200</b>
Funding from Friends of the Smokies maintains vault toilets in this popular area for visitor convenience. The park staff anticipates a base increases for custodial services; if it comes through, this would come off of the annual needs list.	
<b>Cherokee Orchard &amp; Roaring Fork Visitor Amenities</b>	<b>\$ 16,300</b>
<b>Townsend Wye Visitor Amenities</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>
<b>Support Operations for the Appalachian Highlands Center</b>	<b>\$ 30,200</b>
This support covers interior custodial services, utilities, road maintenance, and mowing of the meadows.	
<b>Cades Cove Fencing</b>	<b>\$ 43,000</b>
Restoration of several miles of historic fencing is needed to replace barbed wire currently in place.	
<b>Manage Public Rental Use Programs at the Appalachian Clubhouse and Spence Cabin</b>	<b>\$ 26,800</b>
A seasonal employee will perform onsite management of these historic structures in Elkmont that will open for day-use rental in 2011 that includes conducting pre-rental tours for interested groups, inspecting the condition pre- and post rental, and cleaning if needed.	
<b>Provide Handicapped Access to Mingus Mill</b>	<b>\$ 4,300</b>
Currently visitors to the interior of Mingus Mill must negotiate a short flight of steps to see the mill wheels and other equipment. This project will re-grade the ground and trail out front to allow unrestricted wheelchair access. The Adam Dean Memorial Fund is an appropriate funding source.	
<b>Secure Fireplace at Avent Cabin to Exclude Fires</b>	<b>\$ 1,800</b>
Visitors have apparently been visiting the isolated Avent Cabin and building fires in the fireplace, creating a fire hazard to the building. We plan to fabricate and install a grating that will block off the interior of the fireplace. There is Avent Foundation funding for this project.	

<b>Replace Structural Logs at Baxter Cabin</b>	<b>\$ 22,800</b>
Each year the park requests support from Friends of the Smokies to maintain the integrity of historic structures. The Park's Historic Preservation Crew plans to replace the lower course of logs which are usually the first to rot due to moisture. They will also re-chink the exterior and replace the eroded clay mortar within the stone chimney. There is \$13,914 of Log Cabin Syrup endowment funding at National Park Foundation towards this project.	
<b>Repair/Replace Windows in 15 Cabins at Elkmont</b>	<b>\$ 13,300</b>
The key to halting deterioration of historic buildings is excluding moisture, which means having a sound roof and intact windows. The roofs of all 15 cabins of the cabins slated for preservation in the Daisytown area of Elkmont were repaired several years ago. This year Park crews will custom fabricate new windows for all of those cabins.	
<b>Replace Roof of John Oliver Cabin</b>	<b>\$ 9,700</b>
John Oliver Cabin is the first cabin along the Cades Cove Loop Road and one of the most visited in the Park. The shake roof needs to be replaced by the Park Historic Preservation Crew.	
<b>Complete Trails Forever Rehab Work along Forney Ridge Trail</b>	<b>\$ 20,600</b>
In 2008, the Aslan Foundation, Friends of the Smokies and the Park established the pilot phase of Trails Forever. One of the first projects was the badly eroded Forney Ridge Trail, a very popular trail from Clingmans Dome to Andrews Bald. Trails Now/Trails Forever funding is in hand to finish this project.	
<b>Trails Forever Rehabilitation of Chimney Tops Trail</b>	<b>\$ 121,000</b>
This trail is one of the most heavily-travelled in the Smokies, but is badly eroded and has numerous safety hazards. This project will resolve the safety issues and make the trail more enjoyable to hike.	
<b>Replace Deteriorated Doors at Appalachian Highlands Center</b>	<b>\$ 8,400</b>
The exterior doors at the Center take a beating from sun, wind and rain. They are due for replacement. There is \$5,660 remaining in a fund created by Kathryn McNeil to partially fund the work.	
<b>Furnish and Equip the Spence Cabin for Daily Rental Use</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
In 2012, this recently restored historic building will open in Elkmont for daily rental (to host small meetings, weddings, etc.) This project will outfit the facility and prepare it for use.	
<b>Repair Windows and Treat Logs with Preservative at Little Greenbrier School</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>
<b>Repaint the Cades Cove Methodist Church</b>	<b>\$ 13,500</b>
<b>Install Composting Privy at Mt. LeConte Shelter</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>
<b><u>Resource &amp; Visitor Protection</u></b>	
<b>VIP Recognition Awards Program</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>
Each year almost 4,000 individuals contribute over 135,000 hours (65 work years) of volunteer service with VIP's supporting virtually all phases of Park operations. One of the factors that keeps these people coming back is the Park's ability to provide recognition in the form of awards such as plaques, belt buckles, outdoor gear, etc.	
<b>Support for the All-Volunteer Elk Bugle Corps</b>	<b>\$ 2,100</b>
During the peak visitation periods for elk-viewing in the Cataloochee area of the park, a team of dedicated volunteers provides interpretive and safety information to park visitors to enhance their viewing experience while helping to preserve the natural behavior patterns of the elk herd.	

<b>Support for the Volunteer Roadside Assistance Program</b>	<b>\$ 6,900</b>
The Smokies recruits a series of retired law enforcement officers and their spouses to patrol Newfound Gap Road and Cades Cove, providing directions and visitor information, responding to disabled vehicles and lock-outs, and assisting with motor vehicle accidents and bear-related traffic jams. Their presence has substantially freed up the commissioned law enforcement rangers in the park, enabling them to respond more quickly to more in-depth law enforcement activities.	
<b>Support Appalachian Trail Ridgerunner Program</b>	<b>\$ 33,100</b>
Each year the Park recruits a series of individuals who provide a presence on the Appalachian Trail from March through October. They provide visitor information, do trail maintenance, pack out litter, keep up composting privies, report on the condition of the trail and the shelters, report emergencies and advise hikers on food storage and other regulations, and relay real-time information regarding possible problem bears. Their presence on the AT for over 15 years has made a huge difference in the Park's ability to manage the AT.	
<b>Reduce Ginseng Poaching through Marking Ginseng Roots</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
Ginseng is a staple medicine, but it is illegal to take it from the national park. It is legal to sell it outside of the park. To prove that the park's ginseng is being sold on the market, rangers work with state resource agencies to mark roots with dye or magnetic strips.	
<b>Provide Support for New Volunteer Cades Cove Bicycle Patrol</b>	<b>\$ 900</b>
Ten volunteers will be recruited to help manage Cades Cove bike traffic, provide visitor information, and help manage accident scenes. This will buy the safety equipment to set up the program.	
<b>Add Two Dedicated Backcountry Seasonal Law Enforcement Rangers</b>	<b>\$ 28,000</b>
There are numerous regulation violations involving food storage, littering, illegal or unpermitted camping, dogs in the backcountry, as well as poaching of plants and animals. This will fund two seasonal LE Rangers to resolve these problems.	
<b>Establish New Adopt-a-Cabin Volunteer Program</b>	<b>\$ 1,100</b>
Recruit and equip 24 volunteers to resolve minor problems at Park cabins including removing graffiti, repairing loose floorboards and reporting other problems to the Historic Preservation Crew.	
<b>Develop Artist-in-residence Program</b>	<b>\$ 6,000</b>
The beauty of the Smokies has long inspired generations of artists who capture that beauty in a whole range of fine arts media. The Park plans to offer a succession of interested artists a variety of modest perks, including paid Park housing, to immerse themselves in the Park at little cost. In exchange the Park would receive donated art work/s.	
<b>Provide Equestrian Leave No Trace Training</b>	<b>\$ 6,000</b>
The Park plans to provide certified training in responsible backcountry practices especially tailored to horseman. Participants would be certified to teach the training themselves. The program is targeted to two goals: help alleviate problems associated with horse use in the backcountry and facilitate better relations between the Park and local horsemen.	
<b>Total 2012 Park Support requested from Friends of the Smokies</b>	<b>\$ 988,487</b>