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TO: PATH Board Members
FROM: Parthena

Here is an update on various issues:

1. Multiclub

We still don't have permission to use Hurricane. Dave Collins (in the Blacksburg office) estimates that the materials for repairing Stony Fork will be ordered July 28th, and it will take at least two weeks for the materials to arrive. Furthermore, most of the filler material has been washed out of the bridges, and now it is no longer a matter of resurfacing them, but doing more work than they had anticipated. Bill Compton, the recreation person in the Blacksburg office wants to close Stony Fork completely. I explained to him that we NEED Stony Fork on August for our worktrip. I haven't heard yet if it will be closed. That's a decision Dave Collins has to make.

Steve Sherwood (in the Mt. Rogers NRA) told me today he would do what he could to get Hurricane for us, and would call me back Friday. He did not seem impressed with Blacksburg's ability to get the bridge problem fixed. He assured me the Mt. Rogers NRA would be MUCH more responsive, and would have everything repaired by now.

The reason it has taken so long to get this far is because Steve Sherwood, Dave Collins, Mike A. and Paul Dore were all out of their offices for several days at a time, at various times last week, so it took a while to reach the people I needed to talk to. Steve seems anxious to help us, so I'm feeling a little more optimistic. (We might be tapping into some USFS district rivalry here.)

Given the fact that the PATH newsletter isn't out yet, I think PATH members should be allowed to register late for the Saturday dinner (at least a week or two grace period). Are you ok with that, Marsha? I have mailed out registration forms to members I think might be interested in coming and who might not have e-mail. I've also posted the form out to everyone by e-mail.

2. Bridge in Lynn Camp

Gordon got a call from Terry (Wythe district; the one who helped us with the bridge over Dry Run), who reported that he had been able to take a 6-wheeler into the bridge site, from 625. He thinks it's possible to take a 4-wheel drive in there. He is going to try to get 2 utility poles from a friend of his, and the Forest Service will take the poles in for us to use as stringers. They've decided we can build the rest of the bridge out of the remains of the bridge that's there now, and they said that if we want their help, we can request it, and they will send someone to help us. It sounds like they would rather not be bothered, though. Gordon estimates that we can get it built before the end of the year. For additional details, call Gordon.

3. Timber Harvest on Glade Mtn.

While talking to Steve this morning, we discussed the timber

harvest as well. He wants to go out with some of us, Mike Dawson, and Cheryl (?) who is the landscape person for the Mt. Rogers NRA, and talk about visual quality objectives, etc. Of course he wants to do this during a weekday. I gave him Gordon's phone number, and also suggested Bill Boudman might be a good person to go along. Bill, didn't you and Brent go up to check out what effect the timber harvest would have from the overlook? I thought it might be helpful to have someone in the group who had actually been up there, and looked at it already.

Steve didn't mention it, but Mike Dawson told me that the timber harvest was being held up by the Indiana bat. He doesn't quite know the significance of the Indiana bat, but the Virginia Fish and Wildlife Dept. have to do an environmental assessment (EA) of how the bat will be affected, and nothing can be done until the EA is completed. Apparently that will take some time.

4. Mt. Rogers Shelter

I'm meeting Mrs. Baldwin on Saturday, August 2nd, at the Visitor's Center, to look over the site for the shelter. Anyone else who wants to join us is welcome. Paul Dore will be there to show us where the shelter will be built.

5. Extending worktrips into Sunday?

A few of us were talking after breakfast at the Truckstop on Sunday, after the last worktrip. Given how long it takes some of us to drive to the AT on Friday nights, and back home on Sunday afternoons, we were wondering about the possibility of working a day and a half (or even two days) while we were there, instead of just a day. We could work on our section of the AT on Saturday, then on Sunday, those of us who wanted to stay, could work on whatever more work needed to be done, like side hilling, or whatever. Also, if someone couldn't make it on Saturday for whatever reason, that person could come on Sunday.

As it is now, many of us eat breakfast, then drive on home, which takes 3.5 hrs or more for the people who live in Raleigh. By the time we get home, there isn't much time left to get anything else done anyway. We might as well stay and work on the trail until noon or mid-afternoon, then on home.

This plan would require being able to get access to the necessary tools. Let me know what you all think. This isn't a formal proposal, just an idea I'm bouncing off you.

6. The North Carolina Wildlife Federation has asked us to sign an endorsement for for a funding initiative called Teaming With Wildlife. This initiative would add a user fee onto products purchased by outdoor enthusiasts, such as camping gear, binoculars, field guides, bird feeders, hiking boots, canoes, ATV's, etc. The money generated by the fee would be used for wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation, and environmental education. They estimate it would generate \$350 million annually to states for conservation, recreation, and education.

The idea is very similar to the user fee not attached to hunting and fishing equipment, which is used to restore populations of turkey, duck, deer, etc., and to provide habitat for them.

The fee would range from 0.25% to 5% of the manufacturer's price of the product. So far, this has been endorsed by the Audubon Society, the NC Sierra Club, NC Coastal federation, and a bunch of other NC environmental groups.

What's your vote on signing the endorsement? Let me know.