

THE HIGH KNOB HERALD

WINTER EDITION

The Clinch Coalition
Newsletter

JANUARY 2021, ISSUE 1



The Fight that Never Ends

A winter to remember

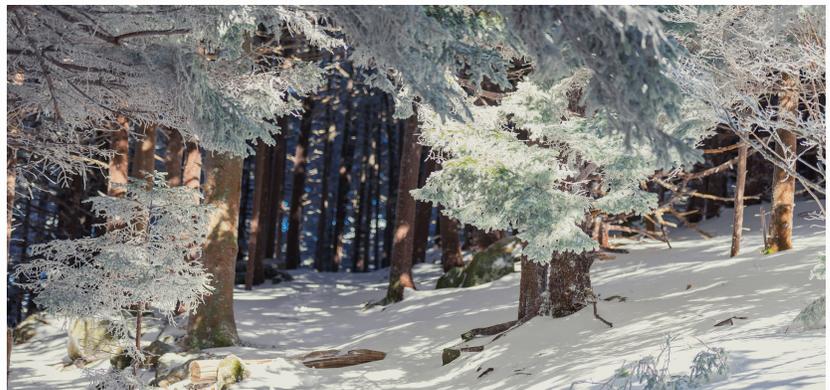
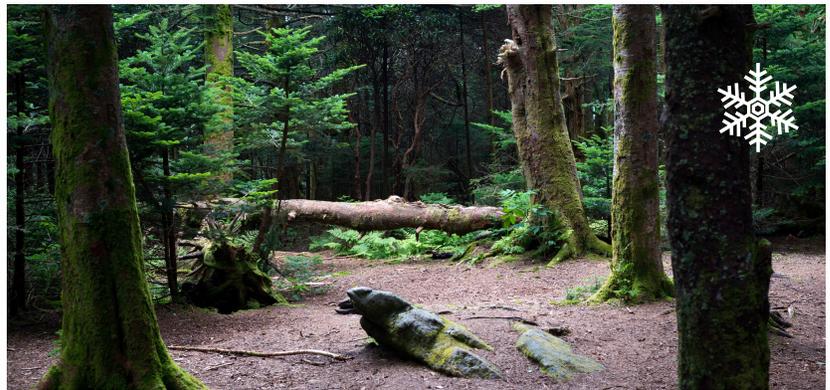
For some people, January represents a time of new beginnings and resolutions. We here at The Clinch Coalition, however, are taking this January to continue our mission: confronting the changes that were made in the National Environmental Policy Act.

The National Environmental Policy Act, otherwise known as NEPA, is a United States environmental law that promotes the enhancement of the environment and established the President's Council on Environmental Quality, or CEQ. It is through this act that people of the public can comment, oppose, and remain informed on the statuses of different projects within the area. Recently under Trump's administration, there have been workarounds made that would prevent the general public from ever looking into the Environmental Analysis of projects nation wide.

Board member David Skinner gave a statement about the lawsuit, stating:

"I am gravely concerned that the new NEPA regulations will prevent me and others from participating in the decision making process," He began. "[It is how we] make sure our public lands are managed in a way that is in the best interest of the local citizens."

Currently, we are combating the new regulations by partnering in a lawsuit with the Southern Environmental Law Center, or the SELC. By joining them in this opposition, it is our hope that we will win this battle for public awareness in the long run.



Written by: Jala Tyler (Program Director)

Edited by: Jala Tyler (Program Director)



Activities

What's new on High Knob

This coming February we will begin planning our annual High Knob Naturalist Rally with the community! If you would like to be involved or volunteer, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at clinchcoalition@gmail.com

Plant of the Month

Spotted Wintergreen (*Chimaphila maculata*)

Our plant for the month of January is the Spotted Wintergreen! This beautiful plant, similarly known as Pipsissewa, is a member of the Heath family (Ericaceae). It is easily identified by the vibrant white stripe that traces its reticulate venation. Despite its wintery name, the spotted wintergreen blooms an umbel of white flowers in the late summer. If you want to make use of it in the mean time, its roots have been known to treat pain when made into a fine poultice.



Animal of the Month

Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

The red fox is one of the most iconic mammals of the forest. We celebrate the fox this month due to its amazing ability to thrive in even the coldest climates! While one may typically feel a stillness in the wintery void, in reality there is so much life that continues to flourish. Unlike our neighborly black bears (*Ursus ursus*) who love to sleep, the red fox does not hibernate. Instead, it survives the winter with its incredibly thick coat. Adult foxes are typically seen traipsing through the snow with their lush pelts, while they hide their pups deep within the tunnels and dens that they dig. They have crepuscular hunting schedules, which means that they are most active during twilight. Their diet usually consists of rabbit, mouse, lizard, berries, and fruit.



Fun Fact:

Did you know that the High Knob Landform contains the longest cave system in Virginia?

If you would like to make a donation, please visit www.clinchcoalition.net