

From: Wearsfriends@aol.com  
To: joanne18@mindspring.com  
Subject: Re: Friends of Wears Valley  
Date: Jan 27, 2007 9:20 AM  
Attachments: [clip\\_image002.jpg](#)

Joanne,

Here is our newsletter. We are planning on mailing it to all Wears Valley property owners this coming week.

Thank you for your help.

We appreciate it!

John Meyers and the team at FOWV



**SAVE COVE MOUNTAIN**

***What does “Save These Mountains” or “Protect These Mountains” mean?***

In August of 2005, developers purchased and submitted a plan for building a large scale residential community on the north side of Cove Mountain. The plan called for approximately 14 miles of roads and 700+ lots. Many of the citizens of Wears Valley felt that this kind of use would wreak untold environmental, economic, and cultural damage upon the community.

The developers have repeatedly presented their plans for a scaled-down development of the mountain to the Sevier County Planning Commission. As it currently stands, the commissioners have not approved their building plan. The mountain presents some tough issues including topography, soil structure, storm water run-off, etc. However, it is our understanding the developers are still pursuing their plans and at some time in the future will be presenting those plans again to the Planning Commission for approval. The Friends of Wears Valley have repeatedly asked the commissioners to carefully weigh the development against the environmental, economic and cultural strains that it would place upon the community. -

The Friends of Wears Valley promotes the preservation of Cove Mountain from any development. Cove Mountain dominates the landscape and frames the entire valley. It is one of the few mountains left in Sevier County that still appears as it did for the original settlers of Wears Valley. The beauty of the mountains is unsurpassed. We feel strongly that the preservation of this mountain in pristine condition is vital to the economic future of the entire community.

“Save These Mountains” soon became a message for the whole of Sevier County. It became a cry to reassess the values we hold dear - a plea for all to pause and reflect on the consequences of our development actions.

***What can be done to save Cove Mountain?***

Recently, a group of conservancies proposed purchasing the entire land parcel of 900+ acres. If the owners/developers are willing to sell the property to the conservancies, the conservancies would turn it over to the Smoky Mountain National Park for all to enjoy. *We urge everyone to write or call state officials to show your support to assist in the purchase of the land.*

***Who are the Friends of Wears Valley?***

The plight of Cove Mountain became the catalyst for the formation of the Friends of Wears Valley (FOWV), a not-for-profit group begun in 2005 by residents of Wears Valley. FOWV is also a citizen’s group for promoting the principles of “Smart Growth”. Public meetings are held at the Wears Valley fire station where progress and ideas are discussed amongst attendees. A leadership committee made up of volunteers conducts the meetings and works with all residents of the valley towards the goals of responsible planning and supporting the purchase of Cove Mountain by the conservancies.

We invite all to join with us who support the goal of preserving the mountain heritage of this place we love.

FOWV is also aware that there are public safety issues including but not limited to:

- construction on steep terrain,
- flooding, pollution of wells and streams,
- fire safety and emergency access,
- liability issues with regards to the overnight rental industry

***Where can I get more information about these issues?***

More information can be found at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/friends\\_of\\_wears\\_valley/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/friends_of_wears_valley/) or at <http://www.asthevalleyturns.com/friends.html>, a website created by a resident of the Valley.

There have been numerous articles written about Cove Mountain as well as editorials and letters to the editors in both The Knoxville Sentinel and The Mountain Press and these can be accessed online at <http://www.knoxnews.com> or <http://www.themountainpress.com>.

Greg Johnson is a freelance writer and has had numerous articles published in both newspapers and has a website at <http://cove-mountain-compromise.blogspot.com/>

Abe Whaley is another freelance writer who grew up in Sevier County and has written articles that

have been published in newspapers and in Newsweek magazine entitled "Once Unique, Soon a Place Line Any Other". This article can be found at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9937613/site/newsweek/> or you can reach him at abewhaley@att.net.

If you don't have access to the internet, you can check with neighbors or contact members of the leadership committee at **865/300-8055** for information.

***What can I do to help?***

The following is a variety of ways you can help:

- Purchase "Save These Mountains" T-shirts, signs and car stickers by calling **865/300-8055**.
- Attend meetings of the Planning Commission at the Court House in Sevierville to show your support of FOWV and "Smart Growth". Meeting dates and times are published in The Mountain Press. You can also call **865/300-8055** to be placed on a "calling list" and kept informed by phone for dates and times.
- Write or call local and state officials letting them know of your concern of over-development and your desire to save Cove Mountain in Wears Valley. Call the FOWV phone number at **865/300-8055** to request a listing.
- FOWV needs your comments and suggestions. What do you see as the future of the Valley? What development is appropriate? Use the form below.
- Please send a monetary donation to the Friends of Wears Valley "Save These Mountains" fund to help show your commitment to our cause and defray costs associated with our efforts. Checks can be made out and sent to:

Friends of Wears Valley or FOWV  
PO Box 1625  
Pigeon Forge, TN. 37868

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Property Location \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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Thank you for your support.  
Committee

Friends of Wears Valley Leadership