

AFORR was created to educate the public about the unique environmental and cultural assets of the ORR. This was to be accomplished by conducting tours, speaking at meetings, and publishing materials which described the floral and fauna in this citizen owned contiguous forest. Our members were frustrated that consideration was not being given to the diversity of interest in and uses of the ORR when decisions about land dispositions were made.

DOE established CROET to bring in industry and create jobs for Oak Ridge. DOE gave CROET 1,000 acres (ED1) for this industrial development. They set aside a portion of this 1,000 acres along the creek as a result of their environmental assessment and mitigation action plan which supported their FONSI. CROET was not satisfied and asked for more land for development; hence, a large portion of the protected land along the creek was transferred to development and still DOE came up with a FONSI. We thought that removing this critical wildlife habitat was unlawful and that a FONSI was a bogus finding.

As a result of an inadequate land use planning process DOE sold the Rarity Ridge developer 200 acres of valuable wetland for \$54 per acre.. Several conservation organizations would have paid many times this amount for the land just to protect it. AFORR is still pursuing the protection of this wetland.

DOE initiated the land use planning focus group after AFORR and TCL threatened a law suite to force them to comply with NEPA. The land use focus group was to access the complete ORR; however, at the last minute DOE took all the land out of the study except 6,000 acres in the northwest corner of the reservation. The focus group did a very good job and 4,000 acres of this land will be saved as a result of their work; however AFORR wants a land use planning process for the entire ORR. We are going to continue to press for this comprehensive process and at a future date we again need to resort to legal action.

Also the Three Bends area that was set aside and dedicated by Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt is being eyed by some very powerful developers who have made statements that when the remaining years of protection (3 years to go) is up they will get this land for housing development. AFORR intends to solicit support from other organizations such as TCWP and TCL and to fight to prevent development of the Three Bends area.

We see from the Pine Ridge fiasco what a lack of planning and irresponsibility on the part of officials can do to destroy a beautiful hardwood forest.

Our goal is to have sufficient funds in the unlikely event that legal assistance would be required. We are an organization of volunteers and have no paid staff .

We spend approximately one percent of our funds on recruiting new members and

the balance on operational expenses such as U. S. postage and copying costs. A copy of our expense report is available upon request.

We hope that you find that our organization is doing a good job and that you will help us protect the ORR by making a donation. All donations are tax deductible since AFORR is a 501c3 charitable organization.