

Jessica Sargent-Michaud
Associate
Industrial Economics Incorporated
2067 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

Dear Ms. Sargent-Michaud

I have enclosed several documents relating to the 3,000 acre Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE). Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) and Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation (AFORR) have worked for several years trying to protect this land. The Dept. of Energy (DOE) is doing a good thing in providing this land for conservation and recreation; however, we have some concerns that DOE is maintaining too much control over this land and is not allowing the Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) to properly manage the BORCE. Our comments to the BORCE management plan will be e-mailed to you.

We are hoping to get trails established to provide hiking, birdwatching, wildflower viewing, etc.

You will see information in this packet relating to the Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere program (SAMAB) where the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) was selected as a Biosphere Reserve Unit (BRU). The land containing BORCE is a part of this BRU.

Application was submitted several months ago to designate the ORR as an Important Bird Area (IBA) under the Audubon Important Bird Area Program.

One of the most important bird areas on the ORR is the Black Oak Ridge Area.

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You will also note that the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE) along with the TWRA has conducted several bird and wildflower hikes on the ORR. When this easement (BORCE) is finalized all of the organizations - TWRA, TCWP, AFORR, AMSE and the City of Oak Ridge will want to utilize this land for recreation which will include hiking, bird watching, wild flower viewing and biking on designated trails. It is also very important that the wildlife and plant habitats be protected on this 3,000 acres and we feel TDEC and TWRA will accomplish this.

Please share any of this information that is relevant with your colleague, Rachel. I am sure she will be interested in the information on bird populations sent to you by e-mail from Dr. Dev Joslin.

Hope this information will be of help.

Frank Hensley, Board Member TCWP and AFORR

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