

UPDATE: THE CROOKED ROAD NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

JANUARY 2013

SAV•NRV, PUBLISHER



WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AGENDA 21 / SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONNECTION NOW CLEAR, SWVA COUNTIES MUST TAKE A HARDER LOOK

Say you're a 501c3 non-profit group with a clever name and cute logo. Convince a few strategic folks—a congressman, a senator, and a press that might as well be your own PR firm—to back you up. Then take 19 counties in SWVA, and draw a boundary line around them. Hold 12 “public information meetings”, without mentioning any of this to the 19 *elected* county boards. Your own board of directors has some tourism folks and planning district commission figureheads across the region—names that pop up on board after board—so you've got “district-wide participation”. Get their network to write some letters of support. Take 'em to your buddies in Congress. Then get everything inside the boundary line designated a National Heritage Area, fast-tracked through those hallowed halls as easy as one-two-three, with no debate.

Then, *bingo!* In the immortal words of Nancy Pelosi, *we'll find out what's in the bill after we pass it*. Congratulations! You are now the *unelected* “managing entity” of almost 21% of the state. As long as you do things just like the National Park Service says, the Secretary of the Interior will turn on a pipeline of federal grant money that will keep all your special interest groups' special interests well-lubricated. Just like that. In the name of preserving the unique cultural heritage of a huge chunk of SWVA—how did it ever survive this long without you?—you are now *the man*.

Really? Is that all it takes for a noble, self-governing country with a proud history to be snookered out of its representative form of government, not to mention the US and Virginia Constitutions, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights? A 501c3 with a gleam in their eye? In this issue, we follow the money and find out.

In our last newsletter we examined some NHAs that have been around for a while. While their management plans start out sounding like promoting the natural assets of the region—the art, music and food—is the answer to all of your economic prayers, we documented that a few years down the road, the plans for the region start sounding a lot more like the [UN's official policy on land](#).

"Land...cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market. Private land ownership is also a principal instrument of accumulation and concentration of wealth and therefore contributes to social injustice..." <http://www.sovereignty.net/p/land/unpropts.htm>

But since we've encountered a reluctance to believe such a plan could ever replace the authority of our local boards and planning commissions, we decided to document the victims. What we found is

shocking. And in case there is still denial of the connection to the *global plan of action, Agenda 21*—the “secret” that's been around for 30 years—we prove that it's no secret. UN Agenda 21 is Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development—no matter how sweet it is made to sound—is UN Agenda 21. And the management plan for The Crooked Road National Heritage Area is one and the same.

The OPPOSITION Grows

No one can dispute Southwest Virginia's uniquely rich musical heritage. We must continue efforts to leverage that distinction in a way that brings tourists to our region and job opportunities to our citizens. But after careful consideration, I remain unconvinced that designating The Crooked Road as a National Heritage Area is in the best interest of my constituents. Tourism success stories in SWVA occur when risks are managed and certainty surrounds the project and unfortunately, that cannot be said about the NHA designation at this time.

Senator Bill Carrico

The Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Foundation does not support the National Heritage Area Designation.

Delegate Terry Kilgore

Chairman, SWVACHF

After much studying, I have decided that I will not be supporting the proposed NHA designation for The Crooked Road. Too many questions persist and our proud music heritage is already being successfully marketed all across the country, and indeed the world. I question whether the additional designation will be worth the undertaking of risk.

Delegate Israel O'Quinn

While the goals of The Crooked Road National Heritage Area may be noble in trying to promote Southwest Virginia musical heritage, the Federal National Heritage designation may put the rights of property owners at risk. That is why I have not and will not support the National Heritage Area designation.

Delegate Nick Rush



Program Evaluation of ARC's Tourism, Cultural Heritage and Natural As- set-Related Projects

Prepared for: Appalachian
Regional Commission [http://](http://www.arc.gov/assets/research_reports/TourismHeritageNaturalAssetProgramEvaluation.pdf)

[www.arc.gov/assets/research_reports/
TourismHeritageNaturalAssetProgramEvalua-
tion.pdf](http://www.arc.gov/assets/research_reports/TourismHeritageNaturalAssetProgramEvaluation.pdf)

Building on the concept of sustainability, a new corporate philosophy and accounting form has emerged that takes into consideration not only the traditional economic "bottom line," but also considers less quantifiable indicators that measure social and environmental impact.....

The concept of the triple bottom line originated from the notion of sustainability and sustainable development. Ecologically sustainable development (ESD) thinking was first espoused in the Brundtland Report (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987) and reiterated during Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992).....

Social and Environmental Justice:
Advocates of social and environmental justice stress the need to promote opportunity and equity within our society, between societies, between generations, and between species.....

This broader perspective, sometimes called sustainable development or the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) is relevant to the types of economic development projects typically funded by ARC within the tourism program.....

[The Ford Foundation] felt that the ARC work would provide a platform for building a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges for adopting a TBL perspective in rural areas including Appalachia.....

...new government policies and new government roles will be needed to change existing organizations into more flexible and fluid entities that will support sustainability...Developing this comprehensive approach will be a **central governance challenge**.....

THE NHA: WHO IS ARC & THE SWVACHF?

At the bottom of this bowl of alphabet soup lies the origin of the push to put SWVA under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. The NHA brainstorm didn't just start back in August of 2012, when a few local newspapers discreetly announced some "public information meetings". (There were twelve meetings total, with about 30 attendees being the largest group.) The Crooked Road Heritage Music Trail evolved from an Arts & Crafts Initiative launched in 2001 by Governor Warner that became known as 'Round the Mountain, SWVA's Artisan Network. By 2006, Governor Kaine adopted "Appalachia Forward", a program that laid the foundation for getting funding through the Appalachian Regional Commission, a federal-state-local partnership composed of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair.

In 2008, the VA legislature set up the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Commission. In 2010, they set up another non-profit, Friends of Southwest Virginia, to manage funds coming into each of the developing entities. The Commission then became a non-profit Foundation in 2011 and according to VA Code § [2.2-2734](#), the SWVACHF was established as a body politic and corporate. The purpose of the Foundation is to encourage the economic development of Southwest Virginia through the expansion of cultural and natural heritage ventures and initiatives related to tourism and other asset-based enterprises, including Heartwood: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Center, The Crooked Road, 'Round the Mountain, and other related cultural and natural heritage organizations and venues that promote entrepreneurial and employment opportunities.

When—and by whom—the decision was made to seek NHA status remains unclear. But in 2008, an economic impact study of The Crooked Road was conducted by Sustainable Development Consulting International, LLC, something that the National Park Service "encourages" in their [NHA guidelines](#).

What is clear—just open the lengthy study in the sidebar, conducted by Regional Technology Strategies—is that The Crooked Road et al is the Appalachian Regional Commission's flagship project, a "creative cluster" in a "strategic series of projects". And that their agenda is one of "Formulating A Sustainable Economic Development Process For Rural America". Sounds noble enough. Only it's not yo' daddy's sweat equity and all-American can-do spirit that will build this new rural economy: it's the Triple Bottom Line, the new-fangled business model that levels the playing field between filling a demand by producing a good product with equal parts social equity and environmental justice. Oh...and that includes equity *between species*, along with mitigating your carbon output. As the report confirms, TBL was borne of UN Agenda 21 and what became known as Sustainable Development.

The report credits the Conservation Fund for their efforts in creating the TBL model "embedded within the strategies" of ARC goals. A non-government organization (NGO) involved in promoting government control of land use since the UN Habitat I Conference in 1976 and part of the EPA's Smart Growth Network, the Conservation Fund is an ARC grant recipient.

The Ford Foundation, a major contributor to ARC, funded the report. The Ford Foundation is also part of the [Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities](#). They are partnered with ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), [the self-described implementation arm of UN Agenda 21](#) and [led the discussion](#) on creating Sustainable Cities last June at the 20-year anniversary of the Rio Accords.

The RTS report advocates for standardizing "Triple Bottom Line" Sustainable Development practices, touting the Global Reporting Initiative. The Ford Foundation is a GRI supporter. If this is not the new economic model that the rural voters of Southwest Virginia desire, it is time that SWVA Counties defend the unalienable rights of their constituents.

Canada Free Press

...Because without America there is no Free World

"The Global Reporting Initiative and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2008 to set internationally recognized sustainability reporting standards. It was done to foster sustainable development in developing countries and transition economies."

The real ultimate goal is to spread the wealth and arrest development in countries like U.S.

We had informants under the communist system—it allowed the totalitarian government to better control the masses. We have whistleblowers in capitalism; we do not need UN's rules to control us through organized snitching.....I fail to see how a private corporation is obligated to report anything to the United Nations.

Dr. Ileana Johnson Paugh [http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/
article/40013](http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/40013)

SENATE TESTIMONY, R.J. SMITH

On S. 2543 to establish a program and criteria for National Heritage Areas, June 24, 2004

Senator, we do not believe that the mere 23 lines of protections in this bill are adequate to protect private property rights, regardless of what is prohibited in them.

We have seen this happen time after time after time. The prohibitions on land-use acquisition or of outright land acquisition with Federal money on the *24 existing heritage areas—in one area, that has already passed by. And in the **Shenandoah National Heritage Area**, they have **acquired land with Federal moneys**. Also, the **National**

Coal Heritage Area is already calling for **zoning** to protect the areas. **The Rivers of Steel Heritage Area** is calling for its being turned into **an actual national park**.

There are a couple of very important examples of what has happened in the past, where there have been the strictest regulations and restrictions put in by Congress. In 1972, the creation of the **Buffalo National River in the Ozarks**, it was prohibited expressly of any land acquisition or forcing landowners off the land. **At that time, there were 1,108 landowners out there.** Today, there are only eight

left. In 1971, when the **Cuyahoga National Recreation Area** was created, there were, again, restrictions--no land-taking, no acquisition. They had to protect things with conservation easements. And, nevertheless, this Park Service program led to **hundreds of homes and businesses being bulldozed and burned**. <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-108shrg96736/pdf/CHRG-108shrg96736.pdf>

*** The Crooked Road National Heritage Area will be the 50th in the nation.**

What Is A Willing Seller?

What Is A Willing Buyer?



What did a historic survey find?

Private landowners ostensibly selling their properties to the National Park Service are in fact not bona fide sellers but are giving up title to escape the legal expenses of a foredoomed condemnation.

- A problem arises when Park Service officials are using their jargon term SELLER outside their circle, understood by the public in the generally accepted meaning of a free agent conducting business. A clever Park promoter even coined the slogan WILLING SELLER/WILLING BUYER, falsely implying that the two parties are on an equal footing. This slogan has developed into a mantra recited at hearings and discussions on Park expansion for the deception of legislators and the general public.
- It is reasonable to assume that Park Service extortion was exercised in most of the 1,130 title transactions. <http://prfamerica.org/willing/WillingSellerWillingBuyer.html>



The main IUCN elements of The Wildlands Project have been adopted by United States agencies such as the NPS, USACE, EPA, BLM, USFWS, and the USDA Forest Service under international conventions, and merged with the "modern paradigm" for National Heritage Areas... <http://www.vlrc.org/>

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

Bart Dye's bad fortune, along with that of several other farmers in his area of Shoals in southwestern Indiana, began in 1977, when, as president of the Martin County Farm Bureau, he organized the farmers to oppose the expansion of nearby Hoosier National Forest, which was gobbling up farmland.....

Over 700 homes and businesses are currently within the boundaries of the national lake-shore, despite the promise by the federal government in 1965 that there would be no condemnation of homes and businesses, "said William Theis, a leader of STOP, which he said has 310 members and has collected 16,000 signatures on a petition against dunes park expansion. "Literally hundreds of people were forced to sell their homes against their will and feel they were not adequately compensated."

The Yukon Cleansing The Park Service essentially told everyone they could go on living their accustomed "subsistence lifestyle," as it was a "cultural value" worthy of protection. But the deep changes NPS brought pulled the future out from under the people, for their rights didn't extend to the next generation and their present lives now operated under an incomprehensible permit system and new regulations.....

Congress created the Yuma Crossing NHA, and hardly any of the locals knew about it until Lee Ott saw the surveyors on his property.....

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground from Charlottesville to Gettysburg... is a sweet deal that could leave the Partnership "with a near monopoly on real estate development opportunities within the [JTHG] area.....

In the National Coal Heritage Area the people of Hinton wanted funds to repair a local road. They lobbied their legislators for several years, and finally the federal funding came through. At that point, the National Park Service stepped in. Because the local road was in a Heritage Area, Park Service officials announced, the money would be used to create a Scenic Parkway. The Scenic Parkway called for condemning dozens of properties, forcing people out of their homes.....

The Wheeling National Heritage Act Corporation...take properties away from their present owners and give them to other private retail businesses of the City's choosing....



The OPPOSITION Grows

Although I understand that the proposed National Heritage Area will bring in new money, there are many concerns which remain unanswered.

Delegate Anne B. Crockett-Stark

Delegate Joseph Yost and Delegate Will Morefield did not return our calls or emails with a statement on the NHA.

In 2012, the Smyth County Board of Supervisors voted to defund The Crooked Road Organization.

What if the Park Service decides to regulate The Crooked Road? The only recourse we would have is to take them to court. He added that he has a real problem with that because our opinion of what infringes on property rights may differ.

Pulaski County Supervisor, Andy McCready

<http://www.southwesttimes.com/2013/01/sups-leery-of-heritage-designation-crooked-road-seeking-to-become-50th-national-heritage-area/>

Supervisor Ron Blevins (Smyth County), Supervisor Bill Gibson (Washington County) and Supervisor Bob Gibson (Russell County) are all outspoken opponents of the NHA.

In November 2012, at their annual meemeemeeting in Roanoke, the Virginia Farm Bureau voted unanimously to oppose the National Heritage Area designation.

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Sustain Authentic Values
www.petitiontoremove.com

THE SEARCH FOR ACCOUNTABILITY: WHERE DO WE LOOK?

To say that the NHA is not a threat to property rights is a false claim. That much is proven. Some huge questions now remain. Southwest Virginia—the Commonwealth—is under siege. Every bit as real as the revolution that established Virginia as the cradle of liberty are the “invisible” forces that seek to take it away, to put it in the hands of an agency, a council, a bureaucracy that knows better what is the best, more equitable way for society to conduct itself. In this General Assembly session, bill readers from all over the Commonwealth have identified 74 bills as “Agenda 21”, most of them opposed by liberty groups trying to raise the alarm. Instead of making government more invisible, as the NHA will assuredly do, it is time that our legislators acknowledge and account for this onslaught.

Here’s a partial Sustainable Development inventory for SWVA: The New River Valley Planning District Commission was awarded a HUD grant. The plan is to create “Rural Sustainability Hubs” where development may occur and put the entire region under one “sustainable” comprehensive plan. The Clinch River Valley Initiative is working with the Department of Recreation and Conservation and ARC to create a new state park, in order to protect “internationally significant biodiversity”. (Go [here](#) to look at the DCR map of your county to see how much land is targeted for Conservation. Then refer to the [The Wildlands Project](#)). The Town of Abingdon (formerly an ICLEI partner) is seeking to put a Smart Growth Urban Development Area at Exit 14. The Town of Blacksburg quickly created UDA ordinances before the state mandate was made optional last year, despite objections from property owners. And now, there is the NHA.

In a January 17 [conference call](#) (<http://www.websmithnet.com/kq.mp3>) with Delegates Terry Kilgore, Israel O’Quinn and liberty group leaders from across Virginia, both representatives assured us that SWVACHF “literally just governs the day-to-day operations of the building that is Heartwood...procure the products, figure out who is going to have the food contracts, make sure that the lights are on.” SWVACHF Chairman, Mr. Kilgore said that they “had never heard “ of any of the far-reaching plans that The Crooked Road organization and ‘Round the Mountain are involved in. “All we do is govern Heartwood and make sure that bills are paid. That’s it,” Mr. O’Quinn confirms. But, according to VA Code (see page 2), the SWVACHF has a defined role in the *expansion of cultural and natural heritage ventures*.

We have also confirmed that since 2010, Heartwood has suffered a [Net Loss of \\$953,477](#), (<http://www.websmithnet.com/heartwood.pdf>) SWVACHF has no dedicated website where minutes and agendas can be accessed. We had to make some calls to get a list of the board members, and were surprised to see that Senator Carrico and Delegate Johnson are both members. Senator Carrico is against the NHA designation and Delegate Johnson has admitted to having “reservations”. Senator Puckett also sits on the board, with his bill to create a Tourist Train that would connect The Crooked Road NHA to the National Coal Heritage Area recently passing through the state senate.

Ignored by the media, eagerly anticipated by a select few, unless property owners and lawmakers experience an awakening, a radical transformation awaits Southwest Virginia.

CADES COVE | National Park Guide



Millions of tourists

have passed through Cades Cove, now part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Its 700 inhabitants once formed a “close-knit community with a strong sense of community and local pride”.

Beginning in the 1930’s the National Park Service tore down, burned and destroyed homes, barns, schools and churches of that fertile valley. Durwood Dunne, a history professor at Tennessee Wesleyan College, wrote: “Having destroyed the community of Cades Cove by eminent domain, the community’s corpse was now to be mutilated beyond recognition . ”

In 1929, a Tennessee writer told his story in the Maryville Times, “Our ancestors fought in the American Revolution. Have we no right to life, liberty, HOME and happiness? Fresh warm blood from Cades Cove redeemed the soil of France to make the world safer for Democracy—must Cades Cove submit to Kaiserism? Must we be exiled— driven from home?”

In 1986, 98-year old Russell Whitehead told his story. He was invited to be a special guest of Tennessee’s Governor Lamar Alexander at the kick-off ceremony for the Tennessee Homecoming celebration.

Stealing Our Heritage

Leo M. Schwartz, NewsWithViews.com

The Story of Cades Cove

Whitehead was the last surviving person to own land in Cades Cove. The Governor introduced Whitehead.

He stood, pointed his finger at Alexander and said,

“You stole my land.”

