



## Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment

2507 Mineral Springs Avenue, Suite D  
Knoxville, TN 37917  
865-249-7488 or 249-6870 • (Fax) 865-851-9761  
E-mail: [info@socm.org](mailto:info@socm.org) • [www.socm.org](http://www.socm.org)

### How to Comment on the North Cumberland Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition

- All comments **must be received** by 5:00pm Eastern on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- On the web: [http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OSMRE\\_TN\\_LUM/](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OSMRE_TN_LUM/).
- In person: Attend one of **four public hearings** being held by OSM. You can **submit comments in writing or give oral testimony**.
  - Wartburg Central High School, Wartburg, TN on Monday, January 11, 2016
  - Roane State Community College, Huntsville, TN on Tuesday, January 12, 2016
  - Clinton Community Center, Clinton, TN on Wednesday, January 13, 2016
  - Campbell County High School, JROTC Room, Jacksboro, TN on Thursday, January 14, 2016
- All public hearings will begin at **5:30pm Eastern/4:30pm Central**. They will begin with an hour-long informal question-and-answer session with OSM officials, who will have maps and other information. There will then be a 10 minute slideshow presentation, followed by public testimony.
- You will be given **3 minutes to speak**. You will be able to speak in the order in which you sign up. **We recommend arriving before 5:30** to get in line to sign up early.

### What to Say

- The **most compelling testimony** will draw from **your personal experience**. If you live or recreate in the North Cumberland area, or if mining would impact your health or income, let OSM know.
- There are talking points listed on the back of this sheet. We hope these give you ideas to add to your testimony. These points are just suggestions. However, they were developed by groups who understand the petition and the comment process very well.
- **Do not use the phrase “mountaintop removal”**. Although ridgeline mining does involve removing the tops of mountains, it does not meet the legal definition of “mountaintop removal” mining.
- For more information:
  - On the LUM petition: Don Barger, NPCA – [dbarger@npca.org](mailto:dbarger@npca.org)
  - On the public hearing or commenting: Adam Hughes, SOCM – [adam@socm.org](mailto:adam@socm.org) -- 865-249-7488
  - To contact OSMRE: [TNLUM@osmre.gov](mailto:TNLUM@osmre.gov) -- 865-545-4103 ex. 149



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### Talking Points on the North Cumberland Lands Unsuitable for Mining Petition

- **Strongly support the State of Tennessee's request and intent to designate all ridgelines** in the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area as **unsuitable for surface mining**.
- The lands unsuitable designation area should cover **all ridgelines extending to and connecting with stream corridors**. This will provide the **best protection** for the land and water quality. This represents the **clear intention of the State of Tennessee** in filing this petition.
- The Office of Surface Mining should use the **best possible science and technology** to identify all the ridgelines in the petition area.
- Tourism is a **critical part of the economic future** for rural counties in Tennessee. The Cumberland Trail provides a great opportunity to share our amazing natural resources. However, nobody wants to hike through a viewshed past **destroyed land with polluted water**.
- Visitors to the four counties spend \$177.4 million per year, supporting 1,420 jobs and over \$16 million in state and local tax receipts. **Tourism is far more important than mining** to the current and future economy of Tennessee.
- The entire petition area should be **designated as "Fragile Lands"**, because:
  - The area is rated **"very high" for habitat protection**.
  - Coal mining is a **primary cause of declining populations** for 33 special-status species. Mining is incompatible with Tennessee's 2015 **State Wildlife Action Plan**.
  - We need to account for the impact on species living **downstream** of the petition area.
  - OSM's draft Environmental Impact Statement determined that the petition area contains natural resources that meet the **"Fragile Lands"** definition.
- **Remining of old sites must be limited**. It can only occur where both the state (TDEC and TWRA) and the Office of Surface Mining agree that there are **significant environmental problems** that can only be fixed by remining.