

Prominent group buys 5,000 acres on Chilhowee Mountain

Haslams, Bealls, Claytons, Alexander children among purchasers

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WALLAND — A land acquisition group has bought more than 5,000 acres of Blount County backcountry, said to be the largest land purchase in the county since the formation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The land is in the southern part of the county near East Miller's Cove road and covers both sides of an eight-mile ridge on Chilhowee Mountain. The vast majority of the land will be forever protected from development.

The ridge is known as the Three Sisters because of three mountain peaks close to each other.

The purchase deeds were recorded Friday and list the buyer as Three Sisters Mountain Investment LLC. Principals in the company include members of several well-known families in the Knoxville area — the Haslams, Bealls, Claytons and others.

The four children of U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander own a 1 percent stake in the property, but the senator, who lives nearby, is not part of the purchasing group, according to a release by Darrell Akins, CEO of AkinsCrisp Public Strategies, which is representing the buyers.

More details as they develop online and in Wednesday's News Sentinel.



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