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For almost 29 years, the mission of Georgia ForestWatch has been to preserve, protect, and restore the 867,510 acres of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests (CONF) in Georgia, our largest in-state public domain. Georgia ForestWatch is the only group in Georgia focused solely on protecting these critical public forests and their watersheds from unsustainable and ecologically-inappropriate management practices. An important part of our mission is to protect Georgia’s last remaining wildlands – pockets of forested land that are wild and without roads, and home to some of the most remarkable biodiversity in the world. These wild places offer unspoiled scenic beauty and an escape from our fast-paced urban lives. For many of us, there is no greater joy than to hike deep into the woods where the sights, smells and sounds are only those of the forest.

Some of these wildlands in the Chattahoochee National Forest are permanently protected within the National Wilderness Preservation System (117,837 acres), and almost 65,000 acres are protected as Inventoried Roadless Areas. Unfortunately, many important wildland tracts in the Chattahoochee National Forest remain that are not adequately protected (approximately 170,000 acres). In addition, there are some special places in the Oconee National Forest that deserve protection because they are botanically rich and are the best remaining examples of these specific forest communities in that area.

The public will have a voice in how these unprotected special places are managed when the current Land and Resource Management Plan (“Forest Plan”) for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests is revised. This plan, crafted in 2004, sets management, protection, and forest-use goals and guidelines for the CONF for the next 15 years or more. Every acre of the forest is placed in a specific management area, with each management area having its own goals and objectives. ForestWatch regularly monitors and responds to projects that embody the worst aspects of the current CONF Forest Plan.

The Forest Plan revision process provides an opportunity for the public to influence management of an area, and prevent ecologically-destructive projects before they can be developed. During plan revision, the Forest Service also conducts an inventory of areas that meet roadless or similar criteria, and considers whether to recommend these areas for Wilderness or other protective designation. Thus, the plan revision process provides an opportunity for the public to press for the recognition and protection of these last remaining wild places.

We anticipate that the Forest Service may begin the plan revision process for the CONF by 2020, and that it will continue for at least three years. During that time, the public and key stakeholders will be asked to participate in meetings and offer comments through the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process on how our forests are managed. ForestWatch is no stranger to this revision process and knows how critical it is to be prepared. To have the greatest chance of influencing the plan, we must be prepared to offer well-supported recommendations and engage public support for them, right out of the gate.

In preparation for the CONF plan revision, we have started meeting with conservation groups engaged in the current forest plan revision process for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests in North Carolina. This plan is among the first forest plans nationwide to be revised under the Forest Service’s new Planning Rule. Two years of public meetings were held to discuss changes in management of the forests (e.g. which areas should be open for timber cutting and which areas should be off limits), and to identify areas that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Last fall, the Forest Service released a preliminary land use plan that would open nearly 70% of the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests to logging. Scenic backcountry areas that conservationists had protected from logging in the past were now included as areas suitable for logging. Forest Service staff were not prepared for the public outcry that ensued, and decided to throw out the preliminary plans and start over.

Georgia ForestWatch and our legal partner, the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC), expect that we will face similar challenges in the CONF. The current CONF Plan designates 55% of the forests as suitable for logging, and we anticipate that the Forest Service and logging interests will push to designate more land for timber production in the revised Plan. As in the revision process for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, some of our favorite backcountry areas, potential old growth, un inventoried roadless areas (roadless areas not formally recognized by the Forest Service and unprotected), and other special places may be targeted for timber production and road building. The revision of the current CONF Plan is an opportunity to save some of the last remaining wild places in Georgia. Protection of these special places should be a cornerstone of the revised CONF Forest Plan.

One essential component of ForestWatch’s preparation for the plan revision is to update the report, “Georgia’s Mountain Treasures: The Unprotected Wildlands of the Chattahoochee National Forest,” compiled by The Wilderness Society in 1995 with the help of allied
There’s a new look at www.gafw.org!

by Laura LeMay : Outreach Coordinator

We are saying goodbye to our existing website and it feels like saying goodbye to an old friend. It has served us well, and we are very grateful to Michael Griffith for developing and maintaining it over the years. Michael invested a lot of hard work and creative energy in the existing site, and we sincerely thank him for all that he has done and continues to do for our forests.

We are excited to introduce our new website. The next time you visit Georgia ForestWatch online you will find a more responsive site. No matter what type of viewing device you’re using, the site will be easy to navigate and enjoy. The new site also allows for more visual content, which will enable us to share more of our media with online visitors. We hope you like our new look at www.gafw.org. Please let us know if you have any questions about the new site!

We could not have upgraded our website without the generous help of art and graphic designer, Maureen Topa. Maureen has donated a significant amount of time and energy into providing graphics for our event publications, as well as creating our new website. You can see more of her work on her website at www.maureentopa.com. Thanks, Maureen!
Twenty years of struggle over Warwoman
by David Govus : District Leader

In 1995, the Forest Service announced a plan to essentially clear-cut nearly 1,000 acres in the steep upper Warwoman Creek Watershed in Rabun County. This plan was appealed by the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) on behalf of the Chattooga Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club and Georgia ForestWatch. These groups were particularly concerned about two provisions in the plan: the proposed logging would be centered on Tuckaluge Creek, a tributary of Warwoman Creek containing a population of native brook trout, and a permanent road would be built up the west side of Tuckaluge Creek. As a result of the appeal, the Forest Service scaled back its logging plan and abandoned the road building scheme. Although the appeal was settled, the Forest Service’s interest in ‘vegetation management’ in the Tuckaluge Watershed remained.

In the early 2000s, during the Chattahoochee National Forest planning process, Georgia ForestWatch and partners proposed a formal roadless area that would protect the western side of Tuckaluge Creek. To be named the Windy Gap Roadless Area, it would encompass the western side of the creek and stretch over the Tennessee Valley Divide to the headwaters of Darnell Creek. The Forest Service rejected this idea, and a subsequent appeal to the Chief of the Forest Service by SELC in 2004 also was denied.

In 2005, the Forest Service released an environmental assessment of the upper Warwoman watershed, which to no one’s surprise called for more logging. This time the plan would harvest mature white pines and restore oaks – an improvement over the logging of mature oaks in previous decades but troubling still because the Forest Service has never demonstrated the ability to restore oaks in areas occupied by white pines. Further, logging in this area of substandard roads and steep slopes would guarantee a significant amount of silt deposited in the watershed.

In June of 2006, the Forest Service announced the Buck Branch and Dan Gap Oak Restoration project. This plan contemplated extensive logging of white pine in the upper Warwoman/Tuckaluge watershed but did not address the road/silt problem. In commenting on the proposal, Georgia ForestWatch, the Chattooga Conservancy and SELC pointed out that until the road problems were resolved more logging was a bad idea. The comments included quotes by Dr. John Hewlett, retired head of the Southern Research Station at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory who noted the numerous problems with the existing road system, particularly with the Tuckaluge Creek Road. The Forest Service dropped this project and began formulating yet another Warwoman proposal.

In 2011, the Chattooga River Ranger District announced the Warwoman Vegetative Management Project. During the next two years the district held – and Georgia ForestWatch attended – a number of public meetings and field trips to elicit public opinion. In January 2013, the Forest Service formally outlined the project and asked for comments. After all these years, this project very closely resembled the original 1995 project, including a proposal to reconstruct two miles of road and build a one mile extension up the west side of Tuckaluge Creek. Georgia ForestWatch and SELC submitted extensive comments strongly opposing many features of this project, particularly this new three-mile road.

The comments pointed out that the Forest Service’s own environmental analysis stated this three-mile road would cost a million dollars and would significantly increase the silt load into Tuckaluge Creek for a decade. The reason given for this expensive and damaging new road was that the existing road on the north side of the Creek had a 200-yard steep section, which the Forest Service could not maintain properly. Georgia ForestWatch argued that the Forest Service had made only half-hearted efforts to repair
On June 6, 2015, a group of 87 outdoor enthusiasts came together under beautiful clear skies at Vogel State Park for work, hiking, food, and fellowship in celebration of National Trails Day 2015. Participants included representatives from the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC), the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA), Mountain High Hikers (MHH), Georgia ForestWatch (GAFW), Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC), Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS), and North Georgia Trail Runners. Activities included clearing blowdowns and improving drainage on the Bear Hair Trail, removing invasive plants at Neels Gap, hiking, and enjoying a wonderful potluck luncheon.

Vogel’s Assistant Park Manager Jennifer Jones welcomed the group, and Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests’ Blue Ridge District Ranger Andy Baker provided inspirational remarks. Leaders or representatives of all participating organizations made brief presentations, and several organizations had brochures or other promotional material available. George Owen of both BMTA and GATC was the highlight of the luncheon with his heartfelt tribute to Margaret Drummond, who died in April at age 92. Margaret served many years on the boards of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (national level) and GATC, and was a founding member of BMTA. With an exceptional ability to build consensus, she was instrumental in bringing about the public-private partnership of volunteers helping with trail maintenance on state and federal lands. Many elders of today’s trail community remember Margaret as one of the wisest and most encouraging mentors. Margaret died just weeks before she was inducted into the Appalachian Trail Conservancy Hall of Fame. The day closed with remarks by Charlie Smilie of SAWS.

Special thanks to Lawson Herron and Marion McClean for leading the work trip, David and Pat Stelts and Laura Northrup for leading the invasive plant project, Darcy Douglas and George Owen for leading the hike, and Nancy Lovingood, Kathy Chastain, and Candy Retter for organizing the luncheon. Extra special thanks to Wayne Jolley and Jennifer Eckert from Cabin Coffee of Blairsville for providing complimentary liquid motivation for all participants. Georgia ForestWatch also thanks Cabin Coffee for graciously sharing their table with us, Robin Hitner for manning our table, and Sue Harmon for her presentation on our behalf.
Except for the Warwoman Project (see article on page 4), this summer has been fairly quiet on the Chattooga River and Oconee Ranger Districts. We responded to two projects in the Conasauga District (Upper West Armuchee Creek and Fightingtown Creek) and one in the Blue Ridge District (Cooper Creek).

**Fightingtown Creek Wildlife Habitat Project**

The Fightingtown Creek Project caught Georgia ForestWatch’s attention not only because it proposes cutting healthy mature forest, but also because the project proposes no other treatments. Other large Forest Service projects in recent years have had a restoration component, usually involving multiple treatments aimed at bringing stands closer to pre-European settlement conditions. This project, however, consists of 436 acres of early successional habitat (ESH) creation within 5,000 acres of Gilmer and Fannin Counties’ Fightingtown Creek watershed. The ESH treatments will remove 80-90% of the forest canopy from each of 17 stands. The Forest Service’s purpose for this cutting is to produce habitat for ruffed grouse and other declining bird species associated with very young, brushy habitat. The treatments would also produce enough ESH to satisfy the 9.H. management prescription, which covers almost all of the project area. The Land and Resource Management Plan (“Forest Plan”), which provides rules, goals, and guidance for management of the national forest, divides the forest into a series of different management prescriptions, each with different goals and restrictions for management activity. The 9.H management prescription calls for 4-10% ESH, and the proposed treatments would cover 9.5% of the 9.H in the project area.

The project also involves designating over 400 acres in the Fightingtown Creek drainage area for old-growth conservation. The Forest Plan and Forest Service Region 8 guidelines dictate that old-growth should be designated in small, medium and large blocks across habitats and the Forest. This project proposes that the stands closest to meeting Forest Service old-growth definitions be designated as old-growth in small blocks (less than 100 acres); but no stands have been identified.

Georgia ForestWatch staff and volunteers visited each of the 17 stands proposed for ESH treatments and found a mix of stands cut within the last 20-40 years, stands with moderate to heavy thinning 20-60 years ago, and stands that have had little or no cutting since the industrial logging boom of the early 20th century. Several of the stands lie on very steep slopes not suitable for ground-based logging equipment. We also encountered several small patches of existing ESH, as well as areas dominated by eastern hemlock that will become ESH as they are ravaged by hemlock woolly adelgid.

The younger stands and adjacent recovering clear-cuts showed us the long-term effects of the proposed treatment. Those clear-cuts have regenerated primarily in tuliptree (aka yellow poplar), Virginia pine, and white pine at the expense of oaks and less common hardwoods. The long-term result is less diversity and lower quality wildlife habitat. Instead of cutting mature, healthy stands for ESH, the Forest Service could attain the desired component of ESH with treatments in young and already degraded stands. The steep slopes concern is similarly not theoretical; part of the Forest Service road that accesses 10 of the stands slid off the mountainside in the early 1990s.

**Upper West Armuchee Creek (UWAC) Project**

The farmed valleys and forested ridges between Villanow and Trion create a scenic and pastoral landscape. Georgia ForestWatch was pleased to see the Forest Service propose a project that had the potential to enhance the timeless quality of that landscape by moving the vegetation on the ridges closer to their historic condition. The UWAC project focuses on a variety of restoration treatments and thinning artificial loblolly pine plantations. The project also originally included management of some trails and illegal road-use issues, but the Forest Service split those issues off into a separate project. While Georgia
ForestWatch supported the broader goals and focus of the project, we had concerns about where and how some of the treatments would be applied.

To better understand the project and clarify those concerns, we visited the project area two times with Danny Skojac, the project manager: after the initial scoping was issued last September, and again after the draft environmental assessment (EA) with revised plans was released this June. In our comments on the EA, we supported loblolly pine thinning, because those stands were planted on sites where loblolly is not native, are low in diversity, and provide limited wildlife habitat value. Our response to the restoration treatments was more complicated. We supported restoration of woodland on harsh sites that likely had enough natural fire during pre-settlement times to maintain open canopy woodland ecosystems. We also supported oak restoration on sites that had been converted to loblolly pine. Other restoration we questioned, such as longleaf pine restoration at the very edge of the species’ natural range. We also had concerns about the cumulative impacts of clearing mature forest for restoration on landscape positions where much native forest had already been lost to artificial pine plantations, and about how support activities such as prescribed burning, herbicides, and road reconstruction would be applied.

The Conasauga District’s draft decision notice on the project, out in August, does not contain all the revisions we would like to see, but the revised plan significantly improves how and where some of the treatments will be applied. Unfortunately, all of the longleaf or shortleaf pine restorations will remove native forest rather than replacing the loblolly pine plantations. As a result, certain combinations of geology and topography will have little or no mature forest left across large parts of the project area. However, mature native forest will not be cut on a stand along scenic Ponder Creek, and overstory thinning has been removed from a shortleaf pine maintenance stand. The latter also significantly reduces the amount of temporary road needed for the project. Changing the woodland restoration treatments from commercial timber harvesting to non-commercial (cut and leave) will provide additional relief from potential erosion from roads and log landings. The Forest Service has also agreed to compare pre-harvest cut-stump herbicide application to foliar spray to see if the former method, which uses less herbicide, is more effective. Additionally, they have agreed to reduce the frequency of prescribed fires once initial goals are achieved. Combined, we believe these changes reflect a constructive dialogue with the Forest Service and make the project more effective.

Cooper Creek Watershed Project

As far as we know, the plans for the Cooper Creek Watershed project have changed little since we reported on the project this summer. The latest plans we have seen still include cutting overstory trees on roughly 2,000 acres. That total includes over 700 acres of pine-pine/oak thinning, which would remove about half the canopy. A similar amount of woodland “restoration” would remove an even greater portion of the canopy. The project also includes regeneration harvests that typically remove 80-90% of the canopy, some of which target mature oak stands. We do not believe woodland naturally occurred in this area as anything other than small isolated patches, and question why extensive timber harvests should be concentrated in the watershed of one of Georgia’s largest native brook trout streams.
For almost 29 years, Georgia ForestWatch has been working to protect, preserve and restore the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests. Our job is to ensure that healthy forests will be available for generations to come. This is a laudable mission, and one we remain committed to. But, how do we accomplish our commitment?

It takes resources. Although other conservation organizations may join us in projects where we share positions, typically it’s just us. In certain instances, including those involving environmental regulations, we elicit the aid of other professional and legal entities. Using these professionals often requires financial resources.

Georgia ForestWatch is funded through grants from foundations and other organizations, as well as through the generosity of our members and friends. In 2014, membership donations represented 51% of our total income. Membership contributions, all important and much appreciated, are used for mission-critical activities, organizational support, and to support outreach activities such as hikes, the Wild and Woolly Forest Festival, and our Fall Retreat.

Georgia ForestWatch is fortunate to have a membership that is committed to our mission and contributes accordingly. When resources are needed, our members seem to arrive just like the Cavalry: in the nick of time and with sufficient resources for the task at hand.

While generous giving is often its own reward, and many members and friends contribute anonymously, we began looking for a way to say more than just “thanks” to our major donors. We wanted to provide a special thank you and recognition for these most generous contributors in a way that might also motivate others to reconsider their giving patterns. To do this and to promote membership growth as well, we created the Forest Guardian Program.

Initiated this year, the Forest Guardian Program recognizes those members whose annual contribution is $500 or more. These most generous members will receive a commemorative Forest Guardian engraved plaque the first time they contribute this amount. In addition, each Forest Guardian will receive:

- A complementary one-year Georgia ForestWatch membership.
- Special recognition in our publications and at events.
- An individual pin affixed to the map of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests on ForestWatch’s website (www.gafw.org), displaying what project his or her donation is supporting.

Forest Guardians will receive their awards during the quarter in which their annual contributions reach $500.

ForestWatch could not do what we do without our membership’s generous contributions of time, money, and other in-kind contributions. Thank you all for sharing our passion for protecting Georgia’s Mountain Treasures!

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Conasauga snorkel update
by Laura LeMay : Outreach Coordinator

This summer tradition is always a favorite at Georgia ForestWatch. Members and friends eagerly gather to head up to the Conasauga River for a fun day of snorkeling. We meet with a team of Forest Service guides that help us suit up, stay safe and enjoy the rich aquatic biodiversity of the river.

We had great weather on our trip this year and were able to explore a larger, deeper stretch of the river downstream, an area even repeat participants hadn’t experienced before. Interesting fish found in the larger pools include drums, which let you know they’re there before you can lay eyes on them. They make a clicking sound that is easily heard underwater as they communicate with one another. Guess that’s where they get their name!

Members and friends are always learning something new about the ecology of a watershed on this exciting outing. We normally host our snorkel trips in July so be sure to keep an eye out next year for your chance to swim with the fishes with us!

A great outing for all ages!

UPCOMING OUTINGS & EVENTS

November 6th – 7th
Stop by and see us at Hemlockfest in Dahlonega!

November 9th
Partnership Hike with The Orianne Society

November 12th
Georgia Gives Day
Thank you for remembering ForestWatch!

November 18th
Hike with Sue Harmon
Location TBD

Email info@gafw.org to reserve your spot today!

We are finalizing the details for more hikes and will post them on our website. To receive hike alerts and registration information you need to join our email alert program found on our website at www.gafw.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mike Bales
David & Vicki Best
Richie Deason
Kevin Doyle
Steven Dupont
Phyllis Ellis
GA Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church
Marilyn Harbin
Katie Klemenchich
Vivian Lamb
Rob Sawyer
Maureen Topa
Patricia Willis
Sherry Wittenberg
Steve Zoellner

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE FOREST GUARDIANS!

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This year’s Fall Retreat and Annual Membership Meeting was one for the books! It rained, and rained, and then rained some more. Nonetheless, it didn’t keep the crowd of members and friends from joining us at Vogel State Park for a weekend of fun, informative presentations, and socializing with old and new friends.

The event was seamless with one great presenter after another, all sharing their expertise and passion for the retreat’s theme, “Protecting Georgia’s Mountain Treasures”. We kicked the weekend off Friday night with our traditional potluck dinner followed by a talk given by Forest Ecologist Jess Riddle on his recent travels in Panama.

Did you notice our terrific group of staff and volunteers at the registration table? Office Manager Lyn Hopper, and volunteers Mary Ellen Johnson and Lynda Doll were a powerhouse team as they made everyone feel right at home from the start. Thanks for the great work!

After sharing some coffee around the breakfast table on Saturday, Executive Director Mary Topa welcomed everyone to the retreat and we were off and running. Mark Dalusky (retired forest entomologist from the University of Georgia) gave us an update on the status of hemlocks, hemlock woolly adelgid and predatory beetle project in Georgia. Sarah Francisco, Senior Attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center, then shared her experiences with the forest plan revision process in other forests, and what ForestWatch should start doing to prepare for the plan revision for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests. The revision process gives the public an opportunity to prevent ecologically-destructive projects before they develop, and to have a voice in protecting some of Georgia’s last remaining wild places.

An interesting conversation got started when panel members Josh Kelly of MountainTrue, Hugh Irwin of The Wilderness Society, and Sarah Francisco answered questions from the audience. Josh and Hugh have been very involved in the revision process for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. Hearing their different perspectives and “lessons learned” gave us a better idea of what to expect during the plan revision process for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, and what ForestWatch should be doing to prepare for the revision process. After all the discussions we had worked up an appetite and were ready for the chili cook-off.

We had a number of delicious entries this year and we are grateful to everyone who participated. Our first place winner went to Tom Colkett, followed by Mary Ellen Johnson and Allison Bailey. Congratulations!

Even with all the rain, some of our folks were still ready to hit the trail. Jess Riddle took a hardy group out on a rare plant communities hike, while Patricia Kyritsi Howell kept folks dry with a virtual hike on medicinal plants inside the group shelter. Everyone had a great time. What a flexible team we have!

We have a number of faithful volunteers that consistently contribute their time to ForestWatch. This year it was with great pleasure that we announced Sue Harmon as the 2015 Volunteer of the Year. Not only did she organize the native plant sale at our spring fundraiser, there’s not a tabling opportunity or partnership event she doesn’t work. Sue, thank you for all that you have done and continue to do.

As always, David Govus, Andy Edwards and Jim Walker tended to the barbecue so we could all enjoy a delicious dinner. Melinda
Edwards also came through once again with all the other fixings for the weekend and we are always so appreciative of the great effort she puts into this significant portion of the retreat. Thanks to everyone who brought a dish to share. We can thank Board President Robin Hitner for keeping all those dishes clean, he jumped right in to help!

Marie Dunkle and Moses Cotton kept us more than entertained at dinner time on the guitar, fiddle and mandolin. A big thanks to you both for providing the music and keeping us laughing and singing along with you. It was a really fun time!

Another big shout out also has to go to two fantastic volunteers that really pulled some weight over the weekend. Members Tom MacMillan and Doug Riddle were absolutely instrumental in helping set up and break down for the event. It’s a big job that isn’t always the most fun so thank you both for all that you did.

If you’ve never attended one of our retreats before, we encourage you to come enjoy the north Georgia mountains with us. Next year’s event is set for the weekend of October 8th. It’s a great time of fellowship with friends old and new and there’s always something new to learn. Thanks to everyone who made this year’s retreat a success. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Thank you to our 2015 Fall Retreat sponsors, contributors, speakers, & volunteers!

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Hugh Irwin
Mary Ellen Johnson
Josh Kelly
Laura LeMay
Tom MacMillan
Doug Riddle
Jess Riddle
Mary Topa

From the Director: Protecting Georgia’s Mountain Treasures
(continued from page 2)

organizations, including ForestWatch. The original publication was part of a Mountain Treasures series by The Wilderness Society in the 1990s that identified and described the unprotected wildlands in each of the six national forests in the Southern Appalachians. The Mountain Treasures series emerged at critical times in the forest planning processes for these national forests. The purpose was very specific: to give the public accurate, detailed information about wildlands in these forests so citizens may speak effectively on behalf of these special places.

ForestWatch staff and volunteers will update existing information in the Georgia’s Mountain Treasures publication (delineate uninventoried roadless areas, and provide maps and general vegetation/biological/geological information), and provide more detail on road conditions, public access, unique vegetation and wildlife habitats, old growth forests, recreational uses, wilderness qualities, etc. With the help of volunteer photographers, recreational users, and other plant and wildlife experts, we want the public to know how special these places are and why they should be protected.

The information gathered for this publication is critical for ForestWatch and SELC to prepare compelling scientific arguments to protect some of Georgia’s last remaining wildlands during the Forest Plan revision process. But this document will also be used to inform the public that they have a voice in protecting these special places, and to engage the public to speak to the Forest Service on their behalf.

You will be hearing us talk a lot about the “Protecting Georgia’s Mountain Treasures” project during the next few years. Our goal is to protect the last remaining wild and special places in the CONF in the upcoming revision of the Forest Plan. But we cannot do this without your help – visit these special places, and when the revised planning process starts, let your voice be heard and speak on behalf of Georgia’s last remaining wildlands.

For our forests,

Mary A. Topa
JOIN NOW! Complete this form and mail to:
Georgia ForestWatch, 81 Crown Mountain Pl., Building C, Suite 200, Dahlonega, GA 30533;
or call 706-867-0051 to join via phone. Want to go paperless? Join online at www.gafw.org/join_give.html

Georgia ForestWatch Membership Form

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