GEORGIA FORESTWATCH
PRESERVE PROTECT RESTORE GAFW.ORG

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Take Action! Tell the Forest Service to stop clearcutting our climate!

Mature and old-growth forests are our first line of defense against the impacts of climate change, boasting an unmatched ability to capture and store carbon from our atmosphere that would otherwise worsen the climate crisis. These forests are breathtakingly beautiful and vital to ecosystem health, offering a haven for endangered wildlife and providing clean air and drinking water for communities. Here in the United States, we are no strangers to the logging epidemic that devastated these landscapes. Unfortunately, this represents a much larger, pervasive problem where our older forests are still routinely targeted for logging on public lands across the entire country.

The good news is - that the Biden administration recently announced a pathway that has the potential to protect up to 112 million acres of mature and old-growth trees and forests on federal lands from logging, but we need your help to get there.

After a nearly 50-year fight, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have launched a rulemaking process that could finally protect our mature and old-growth forests, and they are asking for public comments. That means we need to work together and be LOUDER than the logging industry to ensure these trees and forests are safeguarded for future generations, not sold and cut for profit.

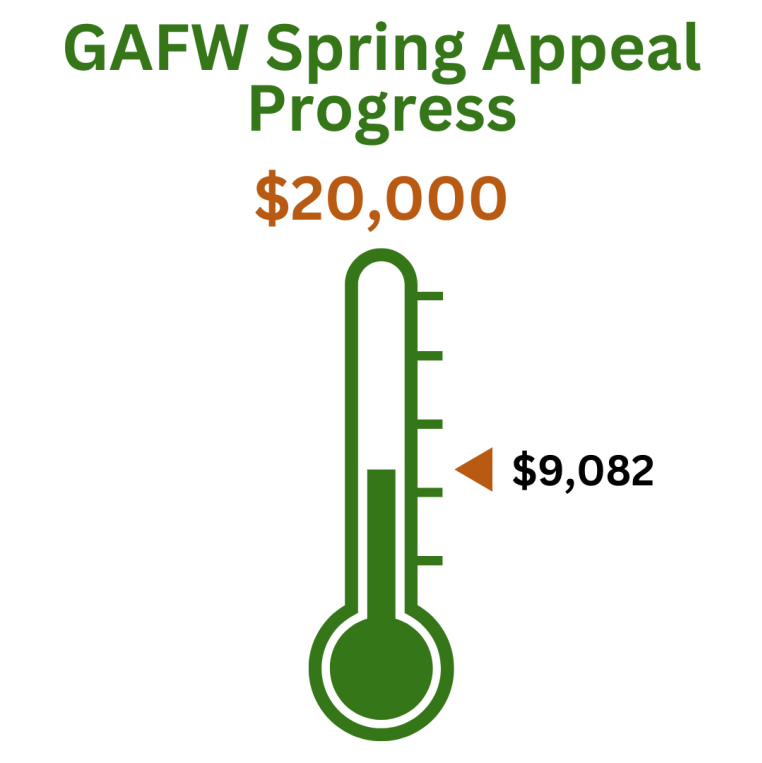
Decades of aggressive logging practices have left us with only about 10% of mature and old forests across the US. These forests are found almost exclusively on federal

public land and are managed by the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This means we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity right in front of us to address projects like the active **Shirley Grove Timber Sale** in the Chattooga River Ranger District (CRRD) in Habersham County. This timber sale will clearcut 194 acres of hardwood, white pine, and other softwood, create a mile of temporary road, and require erosion controls for 7.25 acres.

The future of these trees forests largely depends on how vocal and persuasive forest and climate advocates across the country can be in the coming months. We're calling for an end to this relentless game of whack-a-mole where we fight bad mature, and old-growth logging project by project.

GAFW will be submitting comments in partnership with the **Southern Environmental Law Center** (SELC) and is asking you to **please submit your comments today** using SELC's action portal. Let's ensure these essential climate-saving forests get the protections that they deserve.

Help Us Reach Our Spring Appeal Goal



We're 45% of the way to $20,000 -

The **spring appeal** is one of the two times per year that we set aside space in our newsletter to kindly ask our community to contribute to our work. We can't continue standing watch over Georgia's national forest without your help. **Your donations make our work possible-- please give as you can help us reach our $20,000 goal.**

When you donate to GAFW, you're empowering us to:

-Review 100% of USFS proposed projects and submit comments with improvements and recommendations
-Visit and monitor sensitive areas of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest
-Provide case-by-case monitoring of issue areas in the forest from your reports to

report@gafw.org
-Advocate for and support the closure of unpaved forest roads that contribute to excess watershed sedimentation
-Offer fun, info-packed Outings led by experts and centering best practices in forest management and stewardship
-Publish this digital newsletter, *ForestWatch Journal*, to keep you informed of threats and advocacy opportunities for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, important and interesting environmental news, and GAFW organization updates

Your donations are meaningful and go a long way in support of preserving and protecting the CONF. Thank you for making our work possible.

Donate to GAFW Today

Thank You to Our Foundation Partners

Georgia ForestWatch recently received several grants for which we're very grateful- the **R. Howard Dobbs Foundation** awarded us **$30,000** as part of a two-year grant totaling $50,000. The **Sapelo Foundation** contributed three grants, **$2,000** from their **Organizational Development Fund**, **$5,000** from their **Collaborative Development Fund**, and **$25,000** in general operating support-- the second half of a $50,000 two-year award we originally received in 2022.

We also received a **$15,000** foundation grant from a foundation that has consistently supported GAFW for 23 years and wishes to remain anonymous.

We're thankful for these grants and proud of our continued partnerships with these foundations.

Upcoming GAFW Outings

Saturday, June 17 - **Consauga River Snorkel Trip**

Thursday, June 29 - **GAFW Book Club Meeting** via Zoom.

Saturday, October 14 - Save the Date! GAFW Annual Retreat at Red Top Mountain.

GAFW Outings on Meetup

If this email was forwarded to you, **please register here** to receive GAFW updates.

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Thank You

Georgia ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization with a mission solely dedicated to

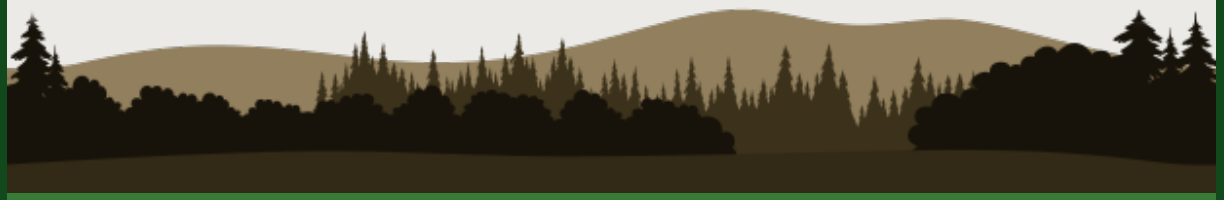
ensuring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests remain healthy and available for future generations, and we can only pursue our mission with the support of the community.

Please support our mission by ensuring your **membership is up to date** and providing **additional support** as you are able.

On behalf of our entire national forests in our beautiful state, we thank you for your support.

Our Mission

Our mission is to preserve and protect our national forests.



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