GEORGIA FORESTWATCH

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Join us in calling on the Biden Administration to enact a strong, lasting rule across federal public lands that protects mature and old-growth trees and forests from logging, allowing the recovery of old-growth forests that have been lost. These forests are essential to removing climate pollution and storing carbon, safeguarding wildlife, and providing clean drinking water for our communities.

Members and supporters of Georgia ForestWatch have a unique opportunity to help protect old-growth forests in our National Forests, and there are only a few days left to get involved.

The United States Forest Service is seeking public input on a plan that will influence how they manage old-growth forests across the country, including those in Georgia. We urge our supporters to participate in this critical public comment period. **The deadline to submit your comments is September 20th**, so please take a moment to add your voice and join others in advocating for the protection of these invaluable forests.

Now is the time to push for strong safeguards to ensure our oldest forests are preserved for future generations. You can click below to learn more about the plans and how to quickly and easily submit your comments.

Take Action Now!

GAFW Fall Retreat Sponsorships

We invite you to support the upcoming annual Fall Retreat. We will be gathering at Vogel State Park from November 1-3.

All funds raised at the Fall Retreat will support our critical work protecting Georgia's Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest and the plants, animals, and watersheds that it houses. We stand watch over Georgia's national forests by partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to ensure proper forest management and to protect the forest from threats, including logging, pesticides, pollution of waterways, and other concerns.

We also offer community education, advocacy, and recreation opportunities. The impact of our work extends far beyond the boundaries of the forest, as a healthy national forest provides clean air and safe drinking water for Georgians across the state.

Please consider sponsoring our Fall Retreat!

The only way for members to guarantee admission to Saturday's program before registration opens to all members is to become a retreat sponsor.

Sprout - $250
- Our heartfelt thanks for your support of GAFW
- 1 Window sticker & Tote Bag
- 2 Retreat tickets and GAFW Merchandise

Seedling - $500
- Everything included in the Sprout level PLUS…
- Limited edition printed copy of **Georgia's Mountain Treasures** book

Sapling - $1,000
- Everything included in the Sprout and Seedling levels PLUS…
- Official fold-out map of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests
- A personal feature in our digital newsletter, the **ForestWatch Journal**

Majestic Old Growth - $2,500
- Everything included in the Sprout, Seedling, and Sapling levels PLUS…
- Feature in the **ForestWatch Journal** and **Forest News** (the quarterly print newsletter)
- A total of 4 Retreat tickets

Become a **sponsor** today to support this fabulous event!

Registration opens soon! We've capped the event at 100 attendees, and the event tickets will sell out quickly.

Item Donations: Even if you are not interested in sponsoring the retreat, you can help by donating items for our raffle, auction, and door prizes. We are looking for

large and small items, including everything from gift cards to art pieces, cabin rentals, and outdoor experiences. Please help us make this year's retreat the best one yet! Please email us at **communications@gafw.org** for any item donations.

Wanted! GAFW is Seeking Outstanding Volunteer Leaders to Join Our Board

If you are committed to protecting and preserving Georgia's forests, please consider applying!

Board member responsibilities include providing organizational leadership, governance, and fiduciary oversight; participating in fundraising; engaging in volunteer activities as needed; representing GAFW to stakeholders; and acting as an organization ambassador.

Board meetings/terms: GAFW board members serve a two-year term and can be re-elected by a majority vote of other board members. Board meetings are held every other month, along with an additional annual meeting. Service on GAFW's board of directors is without remuneration.

Qualifications: Selected board members will have achieved leadership stature or have demonstrated exceptional promise in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector. Specific areas of expertise we seek include the sciences (forest ecology, biology, other environmental sciences), non-profit management, fundraising, accounting and finance, community partnerships, and innovative collaborations.

Ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:
1. Professional experience with leadership accomplishments or exceptional promise in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector.
2. A strong commitment to preserving and protecting Georgia's national forests, together with a commitment to and understanding of GAFW's mission and bylaws
3. Savvy diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals.
4. Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for GAFW's mission.

If you are interested in serving, please share your resume and a cover letter introducing yourself to boardopps@gafw.org.

Upcoming GAFW Outings & Outreach

Saturday, September 14 - Join Us! Elachee Wildlife Festival

Saturday, September 21- Outing! Panther Creek Falls

Thursday, October 10 - Outing! Cooper's Creek - Old Growth "Valley of the Giants"

Friday, October 11 - **Outing!** Dick's Creek Gap to Powell Mountain

Friday, November 1 - Sunday, November 3- SAVE THE DATE! GAFW Fall Retreat

RSVP for GAFW Outings

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

Donate to GAFW Today

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Thank You

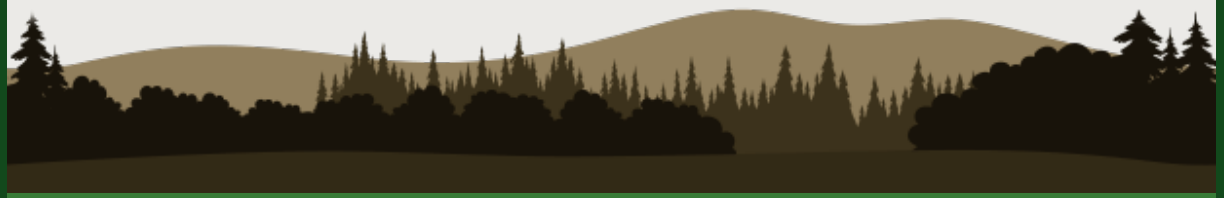
Georgia ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization with a mission solely dedicated to ensuring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests remain healthy and available for future generations, and we can only pursue our mission with the support of the community.

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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