

## Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition

The Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition (SAFC) is a regional non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and restore the wildlands, waters, native forests and ecosystems of the Southern Appalachian landscape. SAFC is comprised of 21 of the most effective conservation groups spanning the five states of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Our objectives are to achieve a unified regional protected network of forests by following the plan laid out in our publication, *Return the Great Forest: A Conservation Vision for the Southern Appalachian Region*. We also work to achieve greater representation in Washington DC, and to strengthen grassroots groups with the tools and leadership needed to protect the forests at the local level.

Equipping our member groups with the science, fundraising, and organizing tools they need to attract, inspire, educate and mobilize stakeholders is at the core of our work. Our staff is always ready to assist with important conservation work. Our Conservation Planner produces maps and evaluates scientific information, our Development Coordinator assists with funding research, our Operations Coordinator assists with outreach and administrative issues and our Director offers advice, leadership and guidance.

For individual members and the general public interested in the Southern Appalachian forests, we offer guided hikes in North Carolina and Tennessee. Our hikes, offered mostly in the spring, summer and fall, are lead by botanists, ecologists, old growth experts and experienced hikers. They are meant to inspire and cultivate an appreciation of what our forests have to offer and the work we do to protect them. In addition, our TN field organizer offers overnight backpacking trips into Wilderness Study Areas in TN.

Recently, we sought to strengthen our connection to the hiking community and adopted a section of the Mountains to Sea Trail through the Carolina Mountain Club. On our first maintenance day we learned much from the expert CMC trail crew and are looking forward to future outings.

If you are interested in learning more about SAFC's work, hiking opportunities, becoming an E-Activist or making a donation, please check out our website: [www.safc.org](http://www.safc.org), email us at [safc@safc.org](mailto:safc@safc.org), or call us at 828.252.9223. We are always happy to assist you.