



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Fast Facts

CHATTAHOOCHEE-OCONEE NATIONAL FORESTS

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests provide the finest outdoor recreation opportunities and natural resources in Georgia. Featuring over 867,000 acres across 27 counties, thousands of miles of clear-running streams and rivers, approximately 850 miles of recreation trails, and dozens of campgrounds, picnic areas, and other recreation activity opportunities, these lands are rich in natural scenery, history and culture.



Nature viewing is the second most popular visitor activity.

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Gifford Pinchot, first Chief of the Forest Service, summed up the mission of the Forest Service: "to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run."

867,634

Acres of national forest in
Georgia



27

 Number of
counties in
Georgia with
national forest
lands

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests

December 2017



Volunteers working to maintain a recreation trail.

Volunteers

Approximately 90 percent of volunteer work is related to trails and recreation programs. 57,000 volunteer hours, worth more than \$1.3 million, are donated on the national forest each year.

2.9 million

Number of annual visitors to the national forestz

Recreation and Roads

There are 33 campgrounds, 28 day use areas, six swim beaches, two visitor centers, five shooting ranges and seven overlooks on Georgia's national forests. There are 1,272 miles of roads that provide public access to the national forest.



Brasstown Bald is the highest point in Georgia at 4,784 feet.

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Wilderness Areas

The Cohutta Wilderness is the largest national forest Wilderness east of the Mississippi River. There are 117,837 acres of wilderness on the national forests in Georgia.



Hiking is the most popular visitor use of the national forests.

Trails

National forest trails are designated for hiking (850 miles); equestrian (248 miles), mountain biking (191 miles) and OHV (112 miles). Some trails may be designated for multiple uses.

The longest hiking-only footpath (2,190 miles) in the world has its southern terminus at the summit of Springer Mountain. In Georgia, the Appalachian Trail spans more than 78 miles and crosses through five Wilderness areas.

850
Miles of trails



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Connect with
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2 Apps

Recreation App

Explore 48 popular recreation areas. Ideal for a weekend getaway or summer visit.

Trails App

Interactive maps and trail profiles for hundreds of miles of hiking, mountain biking, OHV and equestrian trails. Available by Ranger District or Forest-wide!

Get the App!
Put the forest in the palm of your hand.

Free!

Recreation area info, webcams, navigation, the latest forest news & weather

USDA United States Department of Agriculture www.fs.usda.gov/conf

Any reference to specific products, services, or enterprises does not constitute an imply an endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the U.S. Forest Service.

For Android & Apple devices.

16

Featured recreation destinations

Explore 16 of the most popular mountain recreation spots on the forest including waterfalls and scenic drives.

OUTDOOR FUN IN THE NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS

16 RECREATION SPOTS:

- 1. BEASLEY KNOR OHV TRAILS
- 2. TRACE ROCK PETROGLYPHS
- 3. VOGEL STATE PARK
- 4. LAKE WINFIELD SCOTT
- 5. HILTON CREEK FALLS
- 6. WOOPY GAP
- 7. CHESTNUT OVERLOOK
- 8. DESOTO FALLS
- 9. BRASSTOWN BALD VISITOR CENTER
- 10. RUSSELL-BRASSTOWN SCENIC BYWAY
- 11. UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER
- 12. ANNA RUBY FALLS
- 13. LINCOLN STATE PARK
- 14. MOUNT YONAH
- 15. SMITHCAMP WOODS
- 16. DUCKY CREEK FALLS

1

National Scenic Byway

The Russell-Brasstown National Scenic Byway is a 40-mile loop that encircles the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River and is surrounded by the national forest.



Recreation that Lasts

Recreation Activities

18

Bicycling, Camping & Cabins, Fishing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Hunting, Nature Viewing, OHV Riding & Camping, Outdoor Learning, Picnicking, Rocks & Minerals, Scenic Driving, Boating - Motorized/Non-Motorized, Swimming, Waterskiing, Geocaching & Letterboxing, Target Shooting



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Wildland Fire

After many years of fire exclusion, an ecosystem that needs periodic fire becomes unhealthy. Trees are stressed by overcrowding; fire-dependent species disappear; and flammable fuels build up and become hazardous. However, the right fire at the right place at the right time helps maintain healthy forests, communities and watersheds.



On average
30,000 acres
are treated with
prescribed fire
per year.



Heritage and Archeology

While the Chattahoochee National Forest turned 81 years old in 2017, thousands of recorded archeological sites span more than 10,000 years of human history in Georgia.

4,000+

Number of recorded
archeology
sites on the Forests



Over the last ten years, an average of 1,165 acres of wildland fire have been suppressed per year.

Thinning and Timber

Over the past five years an average of 36,502 hundred cubic feet (CCF) of timber has been sustainably thinned from the national forests in Georgia.



Thinning helps maintain healthy forests and watersheds.

Acres by County

Banks 996; Butts 62; Catoosa 9; Chattooga 19,573; Dawson 6,769 ; Fannin 105,133; Floyd 6,509; Gilmer 55,521; Gordon 8,307; Greene 26,236; Habersham 38,966; Jasper 30,220; Jones 17,227; Lumpkin 57,180; Monroe 255; Morgan 339; Murray 52,310 ; Oconee 157; Oglethorpe 3,973; Putnam 37,989; Rabun 148,262; Stephens 23,529; Towns 57,365; Union 98,263; Walker 18,634; White 42,167; Whitfield 11,684

4,784 feet is the highest point in Georgia at Brasstown Bald on the Chattahoochee National Forest.



300 feet above sea level is the lowest point, located on the Oconee National Forest.

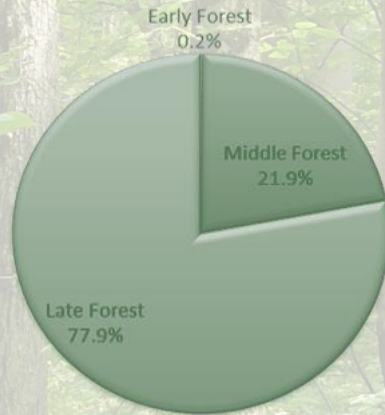
Economic Effects

The national forest contributes to more than 500 jobs⁶ in recreation in local communities. Across Georgia, outdoor recreation generates \$1.4 billion in state and local tax revenue, \$7 billion in wages and salaries and \$23.3 billion in consumer spending⁷.

Forest Health

Top forest health concerns include oak decline, lack of young forest and non-native tree diseases. The Southern Pine Beetle, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and the Gypsy Moth are all major pests.

Forest Age Distribution



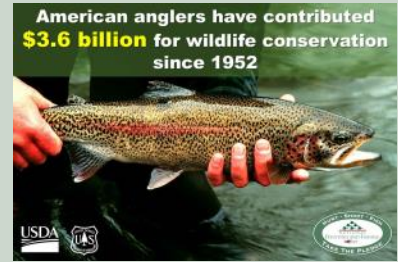
29 **Threatened and Endangered Species**
 On the national forest, there are ten plants, two birds, three mammals (bats), five fish, seven mussels, one snail, and one reptile (turtle) listed under the Threatened and Endangered Species Act⁴.



Blueside darter fish are found in the Tennessee River drainage.

Soil and Water

There are 3,156 miles of perennial streams across Georgia's national forests, with about 1,500 miles flowing down 1,100 designated trout streams. With partners from one federal and three state fish hatcheries, we stock 38 streams on the national forest with about 525,000 catchable trout each year.



6.1 million

Number of people who receive their drinking water⁵ from the Chattahoochee National Forest



The Smooth Purple Coneflower is listed as an endangered species.



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Conservation Education

23,973

Students reached through conservation education programs, ranging from Pre-K to College age students



Students are given lessons by Woody Owl.



The Georgia Mountains Children's Forest Network creates opportunities for diverse young Georgians to experience and explore the national forest in their backyard. By enhancing and expanding successful programs offered through strong Forest Service partnerships, the Children's Forest network cultivates an understanding of public lands and fosters participation in the care of these lands.

39 schools across 29 Georgia counties visited per year.

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we know, and we will know only what we are taught." - Baba Daim, Senegal

5,542

Students issued an Every Kid In A Park Pass



Smokey Bear helps teach students about wildfire prevention.



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LE&I MISSION

Law Enforcement and Investigations

The Law Enforcement and Investigations organization is an integral part of the Forest Service, recognized as leaders in public and employee safety, natural resource protection, and as a professional cooperater with other law enforcement agencies. The law enforcement organization is a diverse workforce committed to integrity, responsibility, and accountability.



1,837

Violations, incidents,
and warnings issued
per year.



Each week, law enforcement officers make contact with more than 1,000 people.

What we do:

- ◆ Work closely with Federal, State and local law enforcement on investigations and search & rescue missions.
- ◆ Protect archeological resources.
- ◆ Conduct informational and educational programs.
- ◆ Investigate wildfire arson and timber theft.
- ◆ Respond to and investigate vehicle accidents, provide emergency medical aid, and enforce traffic laws on forest roads.
- ◆ Enforce fish and wildlife regulations.
- ◆ Investigate controlled substance use, distribution and manufacture.

To serve people, protect natural resources and property within the authority and jurisdiction of the Forest Service.

Georgia Interagency Coordination Center

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests hosts the dispatch center for all of Georgia, which coordinates wildland firefighters to respond to incidents across the globe.

4,000

Number of incident assignments dispatched each year from Georgia.

Planning and Monitoring

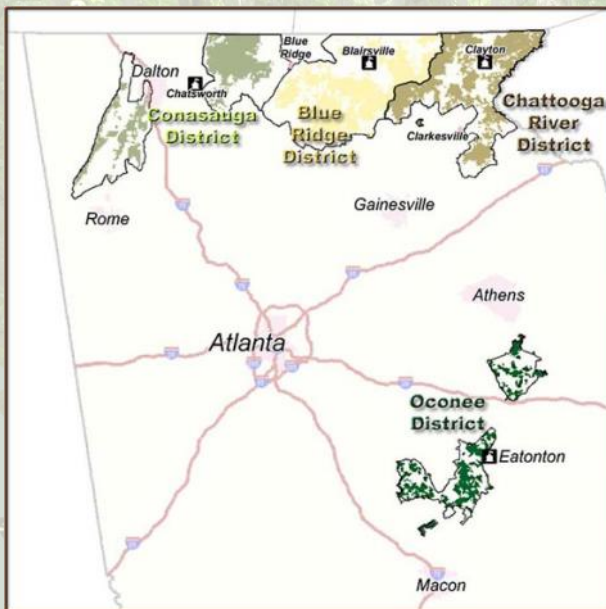
Foothills Landscape Community Collaboration

We work with agencies, partners and stakeholders to plan the right work in the right places for the right reasons.

Information Sources

Unless otherwise stated, all data is from Forest Service databases and documents.

1. www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time
2. www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum
3. water.epa.gov
4. www.fws.gov/angered
5. www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs197/gtr_srs197.pdf
6. www.fs.fed.us/emc/economics
7. outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/GA-georgia-outdoorrecreationeconomy-oia.pdf



5 Offices & 2 Visitor Centers

- Forest Supervisor’s Office, Gainesville
- Blue Ridge Ranger District, Blairsville
- Chattooga River Ranger District, Lakemont
- Conasauga Ranger District, Chatsworth
- Oconee Ranger District, Eatonton
- Brasstown Bald Visitor Center
- Anna Ruby Falls Visitor Center

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