

Big Frog Wilderness Addition

348 acres, Polk County, Tennessee

Description

Big Frog Wilderness is part of the largest national forest wilderness area in the southeast. While the combined Cohutta - Big Frog complex contains 45,059 acres (35,268 acres is in Georgia) of prime wildlife habitat and recreational areas, a vital piece is missing.

Protecting this area will ensure critical habitat protection for a wide variety of mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds, including both game and non-game species. The Cohutta - Big Frog Wilderness is also one of the most visited wilderness areas in the nation. A 2006 press release from the Forest Service regarding overuse states "Overuse from visitors is causing resource impacts that are threatening the very qualities that made this area worthy of wilderness designation." In other words...



the Cohutta "being loved to death." Designation of the proposed Big Frog addition would make the wilderness area more user friendly and more effectively disperse recreation throughout this large and important wilderness area.

Tennessee Wild advocates for adding 348 acres to the Big Frog Wilderness along its western and northern boundary. Extending the wilderness boundary down to Forest Service Road 221 from the existing boundary makes sense considering the world class character of this area.

Location

The Big Frog Wilderness is located in Polk County in southeast Tennessee, 75 minutes east of downtown Chattanooga. The 348 acres would protect the eastern slope of Licklog Ridge in the area of Turkey Pen Cove. FS Road 221 would serve as the new boundary for this popular hunting area.



Tennessee Wild is a coalition of organizations dedicated to protecting wilderness on the Cherokee National Forest for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. Please visit tnwild.org for more information.
