

The Tennessee Wilderness Act Bullet Points

- Hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, camping, paddling, and many other forms of non-mechanized recreation are allowed and enjoyed in wilderness.
- Access will NOT change - No roads will close. No trails will close. There are no mountain bike trails, no OHV areas and no roads in the proposed areas.
- The proposed areas are inventoried as 'roadless' by the USFS so no logging, extraction, mining, or road building is allowed now. No roads or facilities will be closed as a result of this legislation.
- Wilderness designation does not affect hunting or fishing rules, regulations or areas where hunting and fishing is allowed. Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency makes all decisions on hunting and fishing.
- Recommended for wilderness designation and managed as wilderness by the US Forest Service in the 2004 forest plan.
- Wilderness benefits the economy by protecting recreational opportunities that generate over 8 billion dollars in Tennessee each year.
- Wilderness assures investors that tourism and lifestyle amenities (recreation, scenic vistas, and opportunities for solitude) in gateway forest communities are secure.
- Wilderness areas cost the USFS far less to manage than other public lands.
- Only 10% of the Cherokee National Forest is wilderness now; 13% after the TWA passes. The national average is 18%.
- Strong, bipartisan, public support from businesses, organizations, faith groups, and individuals
- Polls show that 74% of Tennesseans support designating additional Cherokee National Forest land as wilderness; 76% in the Third District, 79% in the First District
- No cost to taxpayers - It is already federal land. No land acquisition is required
- Protects nearly the entire headwaters of the Bald River, which ensures clean water to the Watauga, Nolichucky, Little Tennessee, Tellico, and Ocoee River Watersheds; We all live downstream.
- Protects habitat for sport hunting and fishing game: black bear, boar, white tailed deer, and several trout species. Hunting and fishing means business to forest towns.
- According to the Outdoor Industry Association's 2012 economic report, the TN outdoor recreation industry generates \$8.2 billion in consumer spending each year and creates 83,000 in direct jobs.
- Communities with National Forest boundary and wilderness areas nearby are places where people want to live, work and recreate.



Tennessee Wild is a coalition of organizations seeking wilderness designation for parts of the Cherokee National Forest. If you have questions or would like additional information; contact: Laura Hodge, Campaign Coordinator, laurahodge@tnwild.org, (423) 807-3456