

Sampson Mountain Wilderness Addition

Cherokee National Forest

2,922 acres, Unicoi and Washington Counties, Tennessee

Description

The Sampson Mountain Wilderness Addition has a unique opportunity to provide watershed and viewshed protection for natural areas of NE Tennessee and the Cherokee National Forest, and create quality trail corridors into the newly federally acquired Rocky Fork Tract.

With the combination of the Sampson Mountain Wilderness and proposed addition, the Rocky Fork Tract and the Unaka Mountain Wilderness provide a large conservation area suitable to support large mammal habitat, as well as create a wild and scenic landscape for recreation along the nearby Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The Sampson Mountain Wilderness and proposed addition are significant scenic features as hikers traverse the Bald Mountain range to the east.

Several watercourses start in the proposed addition including the significant Clark Creek, which offers outstanding opportunities for trout fishing along its banks. All of these creeks and streams from the Sampson Mountain Wilderness addition eventually flow into the Nolichucky River, famed for fly fishing and rafting throughout the southeast.

Those around East Tennessee that have had the chance to hike to, and climb, the historic fire towers in Unicoi County have enjoyed the pristine views made available by the Sampson Mountain Wilderness and proposed addition. One of the unique view features of the proposed addition is Flattop at 3,150' above sea level.

Location

The proposed Sampson Mountain Wilderness addition is located just west of the Bald Mountain range that makes up the Tennessee/North Carolina border. The famed Appalachian National Scenic Trail passes just two miles from the existing wilderness as it circles its way across Northeast Tennessee. Just across the valley to the east is one of the Cherokee National Forest's current wilderness jewels, the Unaka Mountain Wilderness. The ridges of the proposed addition can be seen from Greeneville, TN which lies to the west, and Erwin, TN set in the beautiful valley to the east.



For more information contact:

Jeff Hunter, Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition,
PO Box 2142, Chattanooga, TN 37409
(423) 322-7866, jeff@safc.org