

Cherokee National Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

Fact Sheet

About our National Forest

- The Cherokee National Forest covers 650,000 acres in ten eastern Tennessee counties; it is the largest single tract of public land in Tennessee.
- The Cherokee National Forest was established on June 14, 1920, from land acquired in southeast Tennessee, Unaka National Forest contained lands in northeast Tennessee, northwest North Carolina, and southwest Virginia. In 1936, national forests were reorganized along state lines and all National Forest System land in Tennessee became the Cherokee National Forest.
- There are many tools that could be used for management or restoration of the Cherokee National Forest. They include treatment for invasive species or forest pests, timbering or other stand-improvement activities, prescribed burning, and stream or road rehabilitation and many other uses.
- There are numerous threats that face our National Forests that restoration activities could address or alleviate, such as forest pests and pathogens, altered fire regimes and enhancing water quality.

About the Cherokee National Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative

- In recent years, more people have begun to agree that restoration of our forests is necessary; however, there is often disagreement about why, how or where it is needed. Therefore, a group of stakeholders has convened to develop a set of restoration recommendations for the Cherokee National Forest.
- The Cherokee National Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (CNFLRI) is intended to help the Cherokee National Forest achieve its mission through the implementation of a public participation process that is scientifically sound and ecologically appropriate. This process seeks to find common ground amongst a diversity of interest groups that will help the Forest Service make better decisions about the future of our shared natural resources.
- The CNFLRI comprises a Steering Committee of stakeholders, including concerned citizens like yourself. Representatives on the Steering Committee include wildlife organizations, environmental and conservation groups, timber industry associations, and state and federal agencies.

How you can get involved

The CNFLRI Steering Committee wants to hear from the public. To participate:

- Keep up-to-date and see work plan and meeting summaries at: <http://www.communityplan.net/cherokee/> or call 434-975-6700, #222
- All meetings of the committee are open to the public -- check the web for meeting times and locations.