



Connestee Falls

# Natural Resources Stewardship Committee

Protecting the health and sustainability  
of the natural environment within  
Connestee Falls.

February 1, 2024



# NRSC Chartered November 2021

---

- CFPOA Board Charge- to develop, update, communicate and implement a Natural Resource Stewardship Plan.
- The goal of the stewardship plan is to ensure long term sustainability of Connestee's natural environment which includes wildlife, forests, lakes and streams.
- The NRSP will be used by the Board, management, committees, clubs, and organizations as the basis for community planning and decision making.





A scenic photograph of a river with a small waterfall cascading over mossy rocks in a lush forest. The water is in motion, creating a soft blur effect. The rocks are large and covered in green moss. The background is filled with dense green foliage.

Primary Goals are to:

1. Keep Wildlife Wild
2. Protect Native Habitats
3. Protect Water Quality



# Data-driven and Science Based

---

## Values for decision-making

- Minimize threats to the ecosystem.
- Protect and preserve natural habitats of flora and fauna.
- Engage CF committees, clubs, and members at large.
- Utilize outside expertise when necessary.
- Balance the protection of natural resources with the needs of the community.
- Provide educational programs to improve community understanding and involvement.





# Challenging Issue #1 – CF DEER

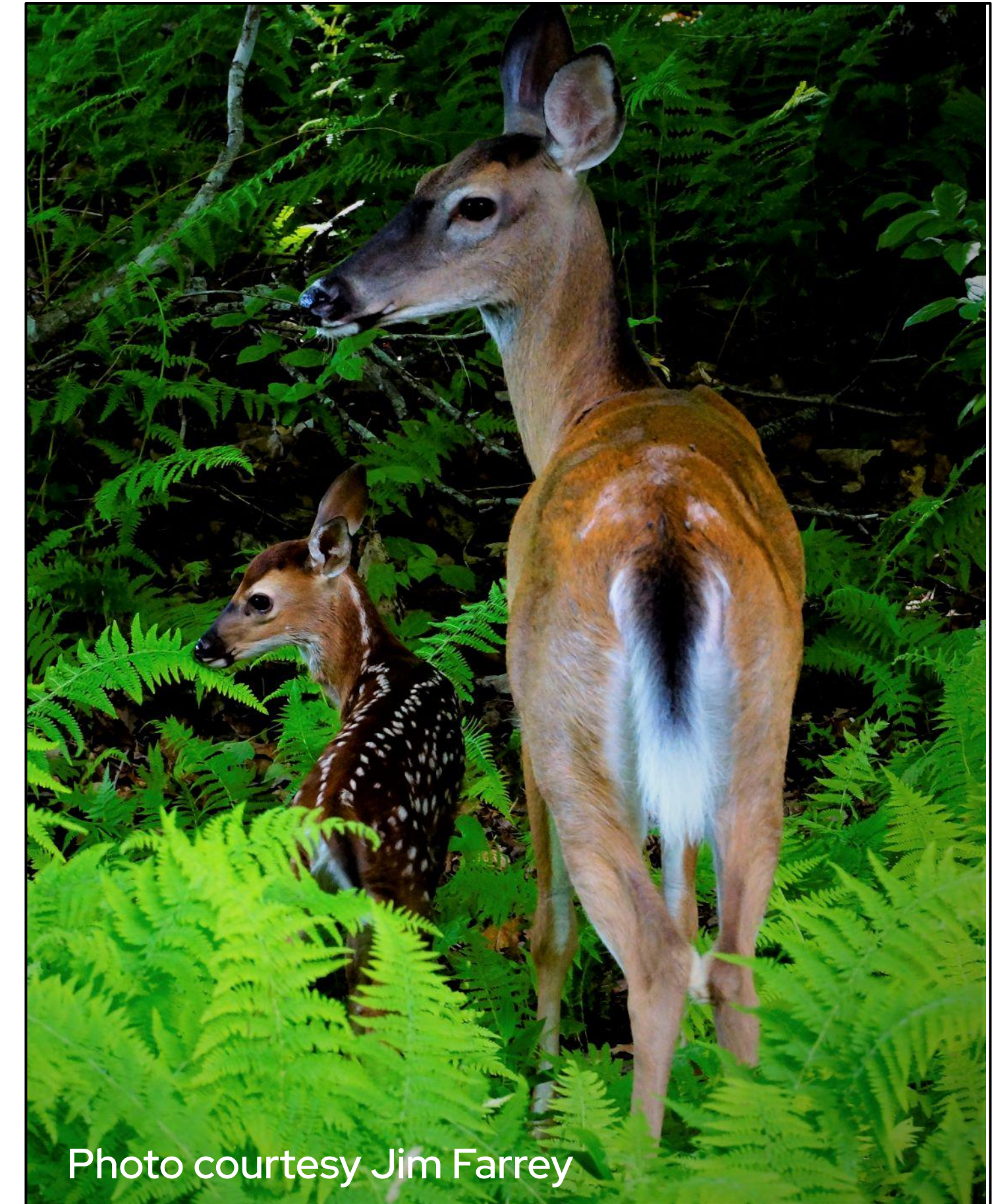
---

## The Community Survey said...

- Deer are a nuisance – 24%
- Deer are of no personal concern – 11%
- Deer are a part of what makes living here special – 65%

## Strategy – A Deer Management Program

- Educate the community to “Keep Wildlife Wild”
- Count and track the deer population
- Monitor habitat and community for changes





# Challenging Issue #2 – CF Bears

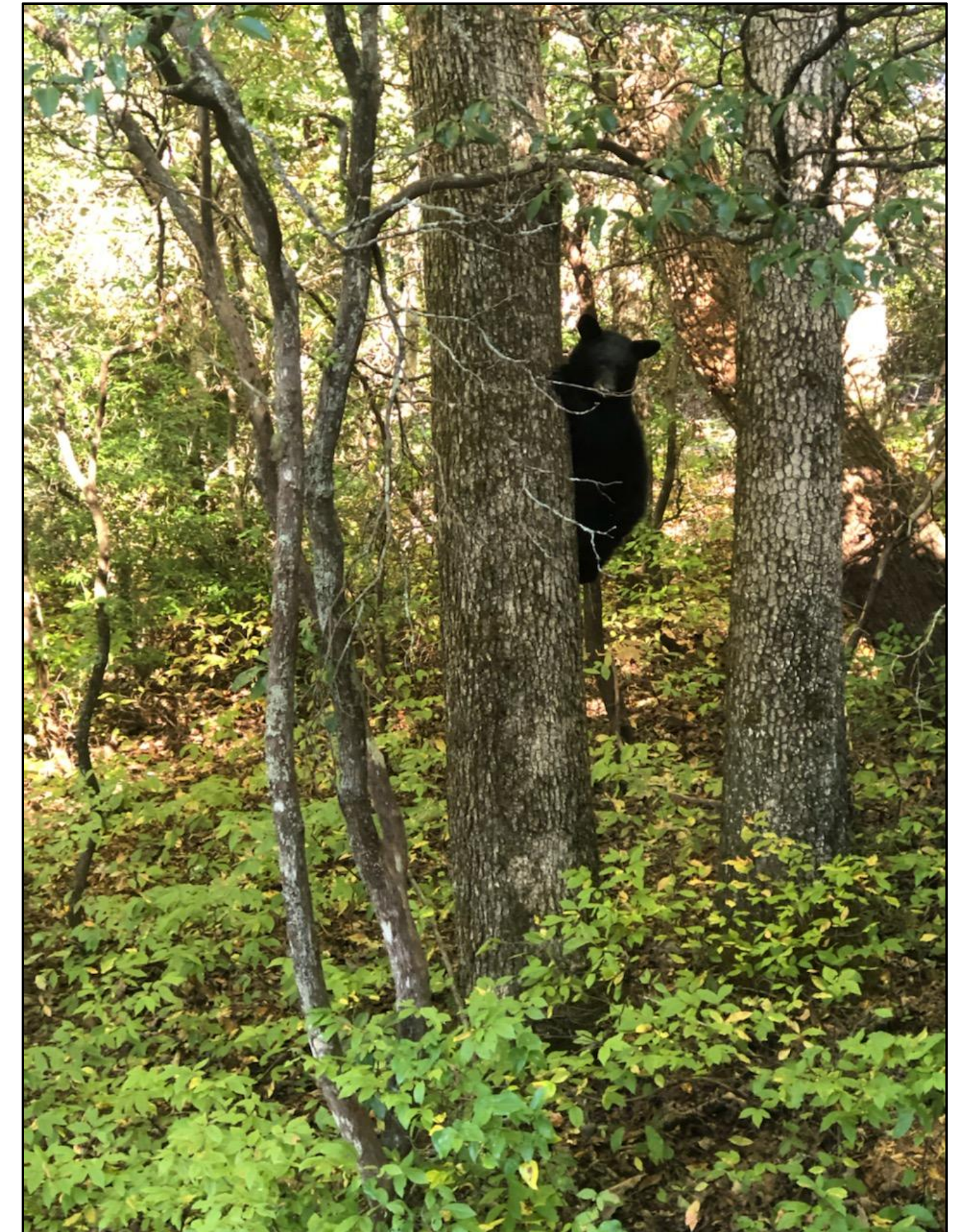
---

## The Community Survey concerns

- Bears being too comfortable around homes
- Residents intentionally feeding bears

## Strategy – A Wildlife Management Program

- Again, promote “Keep Wildlife Wild”
- Recommend bear-proof trash containers
- Enforce existing rules to eliminate unnatural food sources such as dumpsters and bird feeders.





# Other Animal Species of Concern

---

## Potentially problematic species

- Beavers, otters, armadillos, and geese

## Major concern

- Depletion of native habitats

## Strategy - A Wildlife Management Program

- Again, promote "Keep Wildlife Wild"
- Understand and monitor populations
- Protect and enhance natural habitats





# Water Quality

---

## Four lakes and 23 miles of streams

- Headwaters to the French Broad River

## Major concerns

- Lack of historical data and the need for testing
- Impacts from erosion and chemical contaminants

## Strategy - A Lake Management Plan

- Form a Lake Management Subcommittee (LMSC)
- Conduct a Lake Management Study
- Analyze, evaluate, mitigate, educate/communicate





# Forest Management

---

## Six types of forested areas (from the NRI)

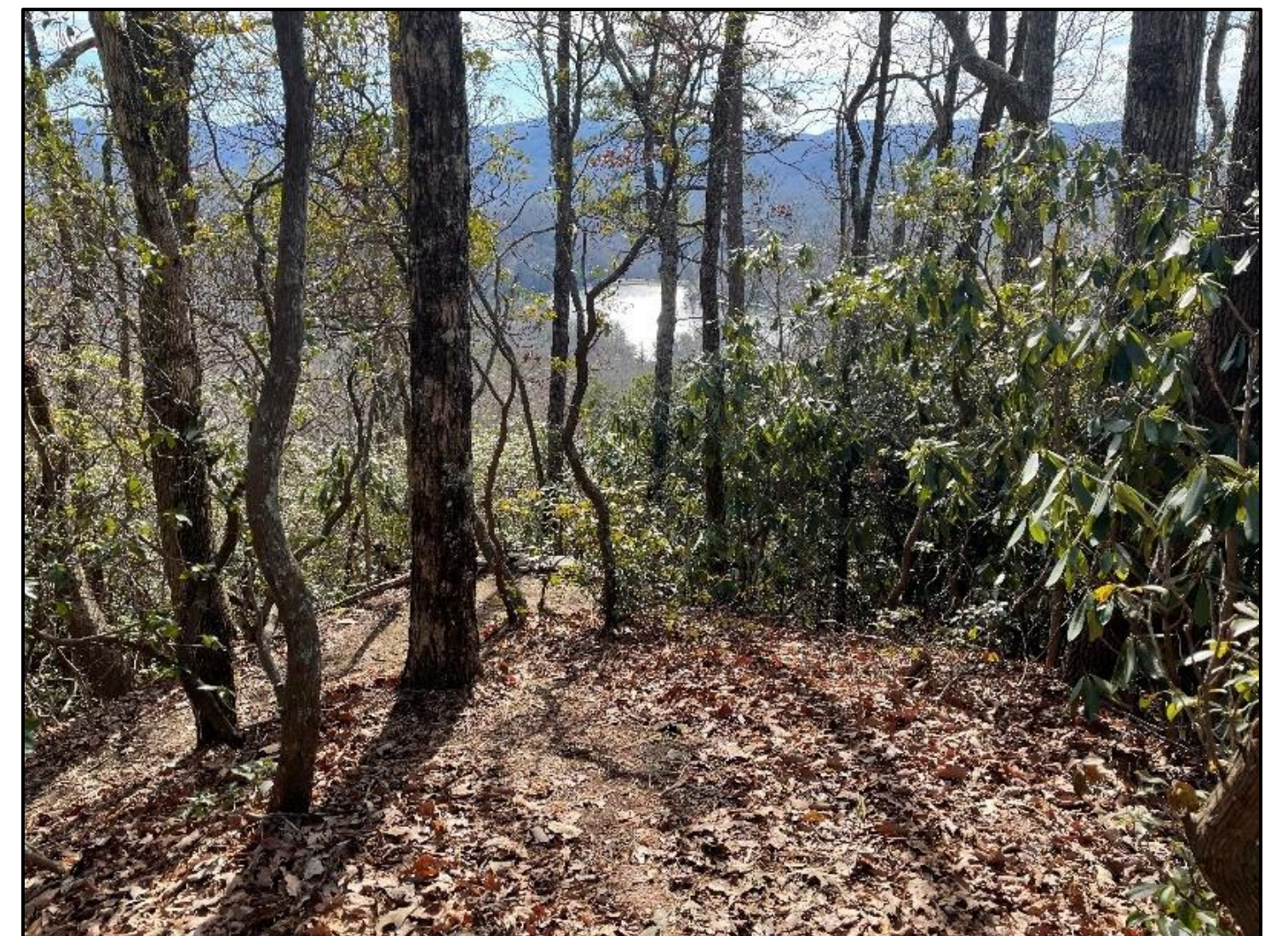
- General health is good, deer browse is not an issue.

## Major concern

- Fire suppression influence on overall forest health.

## Strategy - A Forest Management Plan (FMP)

- Hire a professional forester to develop a long-term plan to protect the forests and with fire mitigation.
- Educate the community about the ecology of a healthy forest and the value of maintaining it.





# Native Species & Habitat

---

Goal – Create a legacy for future generations

Major concern

- Depletion of native habitats

Strategy – Protect Native Flora and Fauna

- Identify and protect endangered species.
- Identify and protect threatened areas including the Southern Appalachian Mountain Bog or “The Bog.”
- Identify, locate, and mitigate invasive species.
- Promote the value of native plants for wildlife habitat.



*Erwin's  
Red Turtlehead*



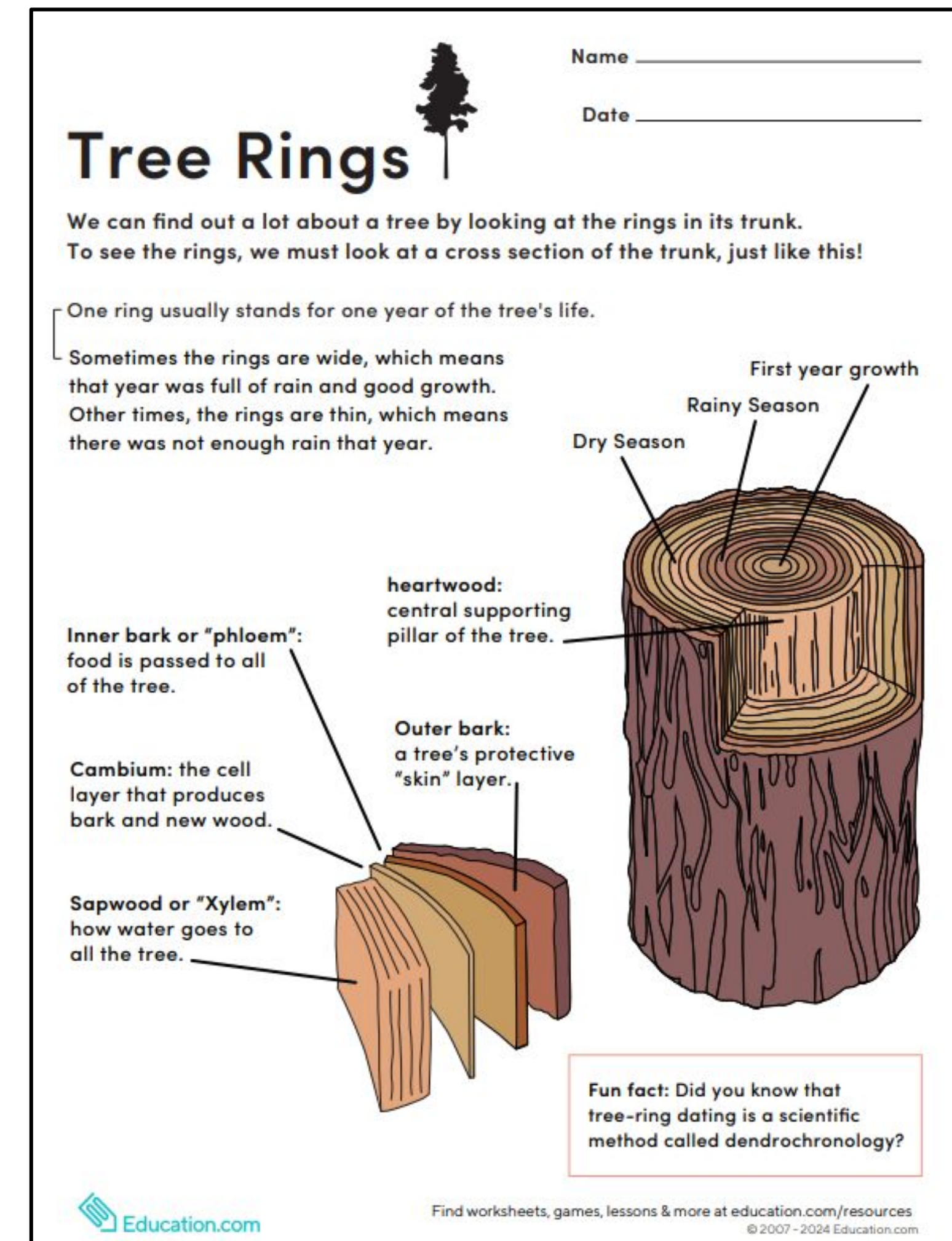
# Natural Resource Management

## Major Concerns

- Need for consistent and continuous management
- Currently rely on volunteers' time, knowledge and skills
- Scope of future work requires a full time professional

## Strategy - A Professional Resource Manager

- Recruit a professional who will monitor the ultimate implementation and effectiveness of the NRSP.
- Organize volunteer opportunities.
- Organize education and outreach programs.





Thank you for your time.  
We welcome your questions and comments.  
[cfpoanrsc2021@gmail.com](mailto:cfpoanrsc2021@gmail.com)

