



December Flood, Bull Sluice by Peter McIntosh

December 15, 2018

Dear Friend of the Chattooga Conservancy,

Season's greetings, and best wishes! The Chattooga Conservancy has enjoyed a productive and busy year — one that was made possible by the generosity of our members. Thank you, again, for supporting the Chattooga Conservancy's work in 2018!

*Recently, as the first snow of the season fell on the Chattooga River, I was once again struck by the beauty of this remarkable area. Fresh snow contrasts the fallen leaves of autumn and vivid evergreens, highlighting hidden details of the winter landscape. It is a wondrous experience to watch the seasons change in the watershed, to witness the natural cycles of the river and its ecosystems, that always reminds me of the importance of preserving these truly wild and spectacular places.*

Looking ahead to the New Year, the Chattooga Conservancy will continue working to protect and restore the magnificent Chattooga River watershed, and to be successful, we need your help.

**I am writing today to respectfully ask that you consider making a year-end gift to the Chattooga Conservancy, to add to your membership support. Please help sustain our important work through contributing during this holiday season!**

As we reflect on the year's accomplishments, we are humbled by the generosity of our members. Some of the work you helped accomplish in 2018, that we'll be building on in 2019, includes:

- ❖ Warwoman Creek Watershed Management Plan, a comprehensive study based on the EPA's "Nine Elements of Watershed Planning," that opens the door for future state and federal funds for improving water quality in this polluted tributary to the Chattooga River.
- ❖ Oversight of the Forest Service's proposed Southside Project and fighting to protect old growth forests, potential wilderness areas and state natural heritage areas in the Chattooga's headwaters.
- ❖ Native River Cane Restoration through stewardship and expanding the project in cooperation with the Forest Service to restore a native canebrake ecosystem next to Chattooga River.

- ❖ Monitoring the ongoing Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Plan revision and working to protect the Overflow Creek, Terrapin Mountain and Ellicott Rock areas in the Chattooga's headwaters.

*New challenges and opportunities are on the horizon, and we aspire to be even more productive and successful in 2019. You can ensure that the Chattooga Conservancy starts the year stronger and prepared to take on new challenges, threats and opportunities facing the precious Chattooga River watershed!*

**Your Gift will help accomplish important work in 2019, including:**

**Stekoa Creek Watershed Management Plan Implementation**, our campaign to improve water quality in this polluted tributary to the Chattooga. The project features:

- *Repairing failing septic systems*, with help of the Rabun County Health Department
- *A green infrastructure project* to install rain gardens, tree islands and permeable pavement at a prominent site on Hwy. 441 in Clayton, to stem the flow of storm water pollution into Stekoa Creek, in cooperation with the Food Bank of NE GA
- *An agricultural Best Management Practices project*, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Publishing a *Citizen's Guide to the Stekoa Creek Watershed*

**Defending Native Forests & Clean Water on Our National Forest Land**, by advocating for protection of Terrapin Mountain, Overflow Wilderness Study Area, Ellicott Rock West Wilderness Extension Area, Overflow Creek and its East & West Forks, through protection as wilderness, Wild & Scenic or other protective designations.

**Foothills Landscape Initiative**, oversight of a major project being proposed by the Chattahoochee National Forest, that targets 150,000 acres of public land in NE Georgia.

***We know you appreciate how rare and important the Chattooga River watershed and nearby special places are for clean water, recreation, critical wild lands and all of the unique opportunities offered by these extraordinary resources, for families today and for future generations.***

*Please make a year-end, tax-deductible contribution. **YOUR GIFT** will enable the Chattooga Conservancy to continue working on these difficult issues that are so important to so many people. **THANK YOU!***

*On behalf of our great river,*



*Nicole Hayler, Executive Director*