Tellico Fish Hatchery

The Cherokee National Forest and the Appalachian mountains are home to incredible cold-water mountain streams. Folks come from all over to catch native brook trout as well as the ever-popular rainbows. Find out what it takes to manage a cold-water fish hatchery and to keep the supply of fish coming so people have ample opportunities to not only wet their line but also bring home a meal.

Conasauga River Snorkeling

Don the snorkeling gear but don't worry, the river is mostly waist deep! With goggles and snorkel in hand, students will take part in the Cherokee National Forest Service's Snorkeling Program on the Conasauga River and learn first-hand about the vibrant and diverse life just below the surface of a cold-water Appalachian mountain stream.

Ocoee River Management

The Cherokee National Forest is home to one of the most scenic and wildest rivers in North America, the Ocoee River. Known for its Olympic caliber white-water rafting opportunities the river is a destination for outdoor recreationists far and wide. Learn how the National Forest manages this amazing resource for sustainable use while also protecting the fragile ecological resources associated with the river.

S.W.A.P. 2018

Prepare for Water!

Participants: Natural resource students (age 18+) from New Mexico with an emphasis on tribal communities.

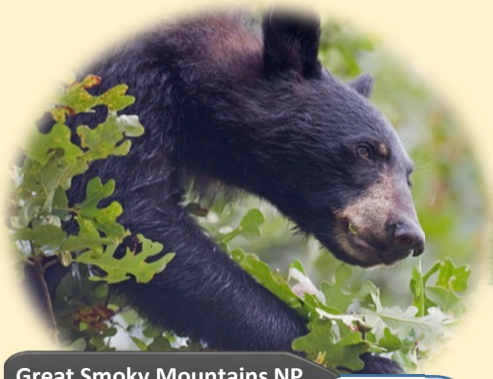
Field Visits:* Students will learn about and experience first-hand the unique, beautiful, and water-rich ecosystems of the Southern Appalachians and the management challenges they face in the midst of high human densities. Thrown into the mix will be numerous lessons on combining natural resource protection with maintaining cultural ways of life. Students will gain a better understanding of the complexities of issues and be poised to contribute meaningful input into land management planning.

Dates: August 5-12, 2018

Partners: New Mexico Wildlife Federation
U.S. Forest Service, Santa Fe and Cherokee National Forests
Cleveland State Community College
National Park Service, GSMNP
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Flower Hill Institute

Lodging: Wasson Lodge, Chattanooga, YMCA Camp

Meals: TN Wildlife Society, CSCC Chapter



Great Smoky Mountains NP

Learn how the National Park Service manages over 11 million visitors annually in an area that supports one of the highest black bear densities in North America. Students will not only be instructed on bear management in areas of high human use but they will also visit the historic Cades Cove area dating back to mid-19th century life and discover how cultural resources are preserved in an area that receives almost five times more rainfall than New Mexico.

Cherokee Memorial

All native cultures have rich and long standing histories with many of their ancestral lands in what is now Cherokee National Forest. The Cherokee Removal Memorial pays tribute to the native Cherokee people who were displaced and forced on the infamous Trail of Tears. Nearby Hiwasee Refuge is a shining example of why people considered this area so rich and bountiful for thousands of years.

Hog Trapping, Catoosa WMA

Wild hogs may be the most destructive non-native invasive animal unleashed in North America, a species which is just now extending its reaches further into New Mexico. Find out what our partner wildlife agencies are doing to battle these destructive creatures. Students will visit the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area on the Cumberland Plateau and will learn the most effective techniques for removing wild hogs from the landscape.

* Subject to change dependent upon weather