



Big Frog and Cohutta Wilderness Areas



The exact origin of the name “Cohutta” is not known. It may come from the Cherokee word for “a shed roof supported on poles” ... or ... it may come from the Cherokee word for “Big Frog”. Big Frog would be the most appropriate. After all Big Frog Mountain is in the Cohutta Mountain Range.

The Cohutta Wilderness (37,042 acres) and the Big Frog Wilderness (8,802 acres), including adjacent Primitive areas, comprise the largest tract of USFS Wilderness land in the eastern United States.

Between 1915 and 1930, 70 percent of this forest was lost to logging. Any evidence of that is gone. Today’s hikers follow secluded forest pathways bordered by a wide variety of towering oaks, pines and other hardwoods.

At 4,224 feet, Big Frog Mountain is the dominant feature of the Big Frog Wilderness. To find a point west of Big Frog that is higher, you must go to Texas' Big Bend National Park or to South Dakota's Black Hills. Wildlife includes deer, turkeys and timber rattlers as well as a combination of Russian hogs, released in the 1960’s, and domestic hogs that escaped.

The Cohutta Wilderness is well known for excellent trout fishing along the Conasauga River and Jacks River. These waterways are a hiker's delight as the rivers meander through steep, rocky gorges, with numerous, stunning waterfalls.

Wildlife in the Cohuttas includes white-tailed deer, black bears, wild boars, copperheads and timber rattlers. Situated along the Appalachian Flyway, more than 100 bird species have been identified in this mountainous area.

--*Hiking in the Smokies*

--*Wikipedia*

--Wilderness Connect



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