

Conasauga

Conservation Opportunity Area



The Conasauga River originates in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia, and almost all of the headwaters are protected within national forests. The river flows through Tennessee for eight miles before it turns south back into Georgia; it is the only river that flows through Tennessee that does not drain into the Mississippi River. Water quality is excellent within the national forests, providing a home to more than 70 species of fish. Some pools within the river have inventory lists of greater than 40 fish species.

As the river leaves the forest and enters the Ridge and Valley region, the water quality quickly declines due to less than favorable land use practices, for example, allowing livestock unlimited access to streams. Conservation opportunities within this river system include the establishment of forested riparian zones and widening existing ones to 50 feet or greater.

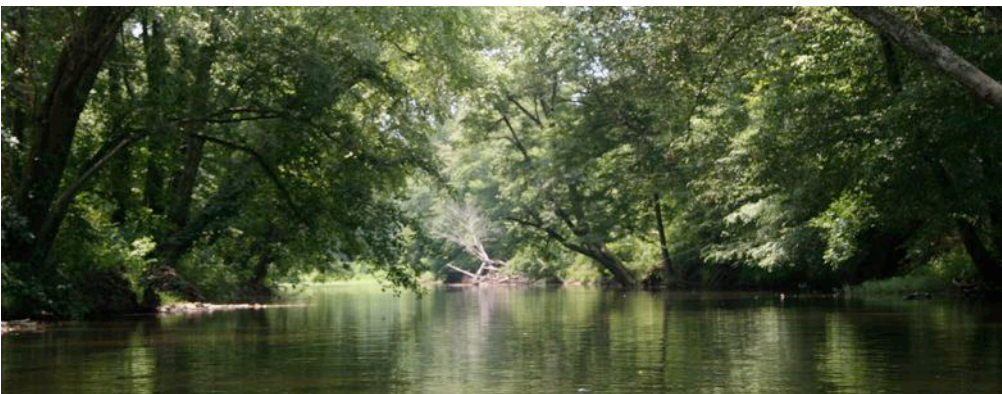
To improve water quality outside the National Forests, opportunities exist to aid with reduction or elimination of threats. Stream bank stabilization will greatly aid in reducing siltation in the river. Working with farmers to reduce sources of nonpoint pollution will also help to increase water quality of the Conasauga River. Also, working with partners to replace poorly designed culverts and storm water drains will greatly increase river connectivity for aquatic species.

Public Lands within the COA

South Cherokee National Forest, Conasauga State Scenic River



The Conasauga is the only river flowing through Tennessee that does not drain into the Mississippi River, with excellent water quality within the South Cherokee National Forest.

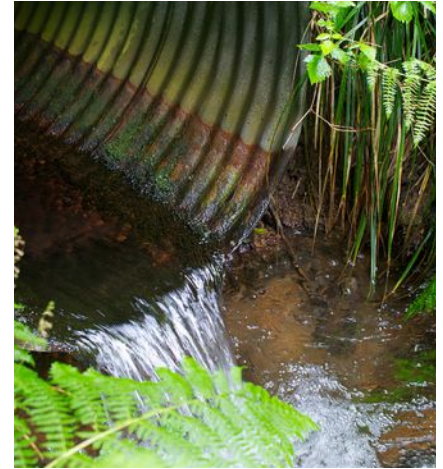


Top to bottom: Conasauga Blue Fish and Crayfish in the Conasauga River - Jeremy Monroe, Freshwaters Illustrated; Wide view of Conasauga River - USFWS/next page: Perched culvert prevents small fish passage - Sam Beebe

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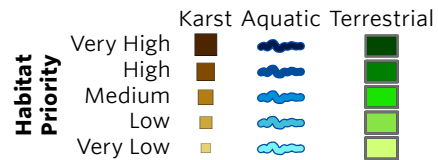
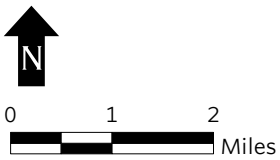
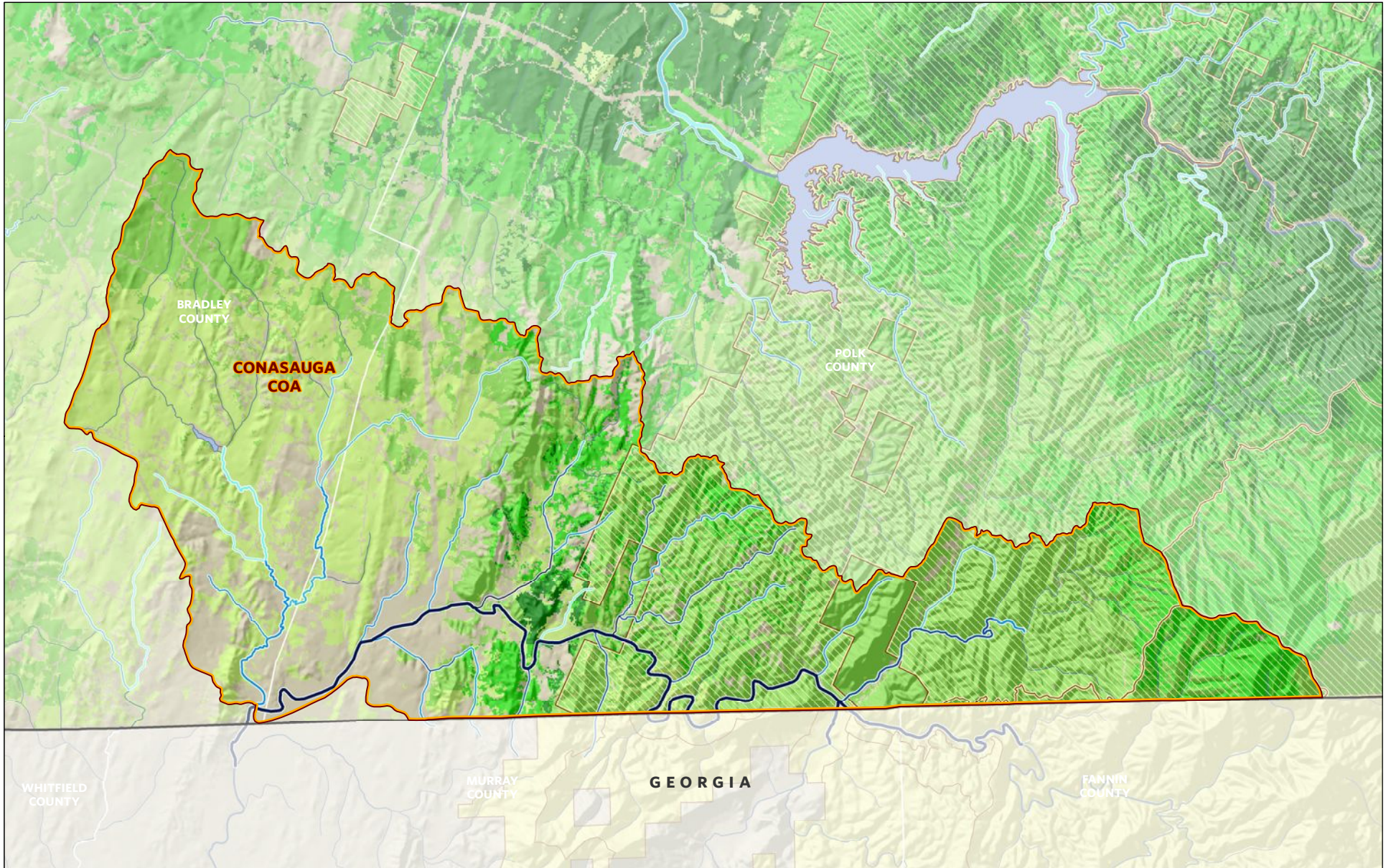
Partnerships

TWRA will develop and expand partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Office of Surface Mining, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Division of Forestry, The Nature Conservancy, the Tennessee Aquarium, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, Land Trust for Tennessee, Chattanooga Aquarium, University of Tennessee, and private landowners.



Desired Change	Units
+ Increase restoration of critical land units and aquatic resources on private lands using government-funded incentive programs	acres
+ Increase acres of native ecosystems by restoring pastures and agricultural lands.	acres
+ Restore riparian buffers and physical stream habitat in priority locations throughout the watershed	miles
✓ Implement integrated pest management plan to aid with the control of native and exotic pests.	acres
+ Increase acres of critical habitat under permanent conservation management.	acres
+ Develop and/or participate in regional conservation planning initiatives sponsored by federal, state, and local agencies.	plans
+ Improve conservation outcomes for GCN species and habitats through participation in environmental planning and permitting.	reviews

To learn more about the Conasauga Conservation Opportunity Area, please contact:
Chris Simpson, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Region 3 (931) 484-9571



CONASAUGA COA GCN SPECIES (TN)	
Taxa Group	Scientific & Common names
Bat	<i>Myotis leibii</i> (Eastern Small-footed Bat)
Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> (Northern Myotis)
Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> (Tri-colored Bat)
Bird	<i>Accipiter striatus</i> (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	<i>Anas rubripes</i> (American Black Duck)
Bird	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (Golden Eagle)
Bird	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i> (Ruffed Grouse)
Bird	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i> (Chuck-will's-widow)
Bird	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i> (Whip-poor-will)
Bird	<i>Cardellina canadensis</i> (Canada Warbler)
Bird	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i> (Chimney Swift)
Bird	<i>Circus cyaneus</i> (Northern Harrier)
Bird	<i>Colinus virginianus</i> (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	<i>Empidonax minimus</i> (Least Flycatcher)
Bird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i> (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	<i>Geothlypis Formosa</i> (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	<i>Grus americana</i> (Whooping Crane)
Bird	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> (Bald Eagle)
Bird	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i> (Worm-eating Warbler)
Bird	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> (Wood Thrush)
Bird	<i>Icteria virens</i> (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Bird	<i>Icterus spurius</i> (Orchard Oriole)
Bird	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i> (Swainson's Warbler)
Bird	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> (Red-headed Woodpecker)
Bird	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i> (Louisiana Waterthrush)
Bird	<i>Scolopax minor</i> (American Woodcock)
Bird	<i>Setophaga dominica</i> (Yellow-throated Warbler)
Bird	<i>Sitta pusilla</i> (Brown-headed Nuthatch)
Bird	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i> (Yellow-bellied Sapsucker)
Bird	<i>Sturnella magna</i> (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	<i>Tyto alba</i> (Barn Owl)
Bivalve	<i>Elliptio arctata</i> (Delicate Spike)
Bivalve	<i>Hamiota altilis</i> (Finelined Pocketbook)
Bivalve	<i>Medionidus acutissimus</i> (Alabama Moccasinshell)
Bivalve	<i>Medionidus parvulus</i> (Coosa Moccasinshell)
Bivalve	<i>Pleurobema chattanoogaense</i> (Painted Clubshell)
Bivalve	<i>Pleurobema georgianum</i> (Southern Pigtoe)
Bivalve	<i>Pleurobema hanleyianum</i> (Georgia Pigtoe)
Bivalve	<i>Pleurobema perovatum</i> (Ovate Clubshell)
Bivalve	<i>Ptychobranthus foremanianus</i> (Rayed Kidneyshell)
Bivalve	<i>Strophitus connasaugaensis</i> (Alabama Creekmussel)
Bivalve	<i>Villosa nebulosa</i> (Alabama Rainbow)
Bivalve	<i>Villosa umbrans</i> (Coosa Creekshell)
Bivalve	<i>Villosa vanuxemensis</i> (Mountain Creekshell)
Bivalve	<i>Villosa vibex</i> (Southern Rainbow)
Crustacean	<i>Cambarus stockeri</i> (Cocoa Crayfish)
Fish	<i>Cyprinella caerulea</i> (Blue Shiner)
Fish	<i>Etheostoma brevirostrum</i> (Holiday Darter)
Fish	<i>Etheostoma rupestre</i> (Rock Darter)
Fish	<i>Etheostoma trisella</i> (Trispot Darter)
Fish	<i>Hybopsis lineapunctata</i> (Lined Chub)
Fish	<i>Ichthyomyzon gagei</i> (Southern Brook Lamprey)

CONASAUGA COA GCN SPECIES (TN)	
Taxa Group	Scientific & Common names
Fish	<i>Notropis asperifrons</i> (Burrhead Shiner)
Fish	<i>Notropis chrosomus</i> (Rainbow Shiner)
Fish	<i>Percina antesella</i> (Amber Darter)
Fish	<i>Percina jenkinsi</i> (Conasauga Logperch)
Fish	<i>Percina kusha</i> (Bridled Darter)
Fish	<i>Phenacobius catostomus</i> (Riffle Minnow)
Insect	<i>Ophiogomphus edmundo</i> (Edmund's Snaketail)
Insect	<i>Speyeria diana</i> (Diana Fritillary)
Mammal	<i>Spilogale putorius</i> (Eastern Spotted Skunk)
Plant	<i>Acer leucoderme</i> (Chalk Maple)
Plant	<i>Diervilla sessilifolia</i> var. <i>rivularis</i> (Mountain Bush-honeysuckle)
Plant	<i>Nestronia umbellula</i> (Nestronia)
Plant	<i>Panax quinquefolius</i> (American Ginseng)
Plant	<i>Prunus virginiana</i> (Choke Cherry)
Plant	<i>Thermopsis fraxinifolia</i> (Ash-leaved Bush-pea)

CONASAUGA COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	Total acres of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Natural habitats	
Southern Appalachian Oak Forest	3353
Southern Ridge and Valley / Cumberland Dry Calcareous Forest	1501
Southern and Central Appalachian Cove Forest	971
South-Central Interior Mesophytic Forest	472
Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and Woodland	197
Southern Appalachian Low-Elevation Pine Forest	53
Semi-natural habitats	
Old Field / Successional	407
Aquatic Habitat Type	
Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat	
Headwaters and Streams	36
Small River	12