

Carolina Mountain Club, EcoForesters, and Others Make a Difference on Western North Carolina Trails

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For two days in March 2026, professional sawyers with the non-profit organization EcoForesters and Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) skilled volunteers collaborated on trail work in western North Carolina. In addition, several other land management organizations participated in this joint effort. This article covers three work efforts.

Mountain To Sea Trail at Craven Gap Area

Twenty-two CMC Asheville Thursday Trail Maintenance Crew members were joined by four members of EcoForesters at Craven Gap for a recent very productive day, tackling the trail devastated by Hurricane Helene.

In this area where so many trees were blown down by the storm, sawing and debris removal are paramount tasks.

The additional sawing expertise provided by the four EcoForesters' volunteers meant a lot more than usual was accomplished! Joining the CMC team from EcoForesters were Pat Barrcas, Sal Covarrubias, Joshua Harrington, and Mike Schmal. Mike gave the CMC team an informative introduction to EcoForesters. Les Love (CMC), Krishun Karau and Lang Hornthal (EcoForesters) arranged the collaboration.



(Photo of Les Love, Mike Schmal, Joshua Harrington, Sal Covarrubias, Pat Barrcas, Glen Hess)

Swampers accompanied the EcoForesters sawyers to Ox Creek Road, where two large blow downs were removed. One single tree took 4 hours to safely remove from the MST. This group also worked on trail restoration.



(Photo of Five CMC and EcoForesters Volunteers and a Massive Tulip Poplar That Was Removed)

Appalachian Trail at Max Patch

We had a sturdy group of 19 volunteers out Friday working safely on the snowy AT, along with our partners from EcoForesters, US Forest Service Appalachian Ranger District, and the Appalachian Trail Conference. We really appreciate your coming out! When everyone contributes like that, we can make so much progress!

CMC really appreciates all the extra help we got from the five sawyers from EcoForesters to help get those trees on the ground. They also helped with transport and stripping of the logs. *(group photo under snowy conditions at Max Patch)*



Great work by all the sawyers to take down about 30 locust trees to help improve the habitat for warblers.

In a third CMC/Ecoforesters effort, we created about 40 to 45 logs for future use and nearly all of them were stripped of bark. About 20 got taken up and dropped at the AT.

