

Frequently Asked Questions about the HRWC-MountainTrue Merger

Will the office stay in Murphy, NC?

Yes, at least for the short-term we're staying right where we are at 90 Tennessee Street, Suite D.

Will all the HRWC staff transition over to MountainTrue?

While Callie and Tony are both full-time MountainTrue employees post-merger, the work of our Administrative & Outreach Coordinator will be done largely by the MountainTrue Asheville office staff and therefore Raleigh's employment won't continue beyond August.

Is MountainTrue keeping the Georgia counties?

Absolutely. Towns and Union counties contain the headwaters of the Hiwassee & Nottely Rivers, as well as Brasstown Creek. They also contain valuable partners and supporters of our work. MountainTrue welcomes them along with the Western North Carolina counties.

What will happen to the HRWC board of directors?

The board of directors as an organizational governance body will dissolve, along with HRWC's 501(c)(3) status. However, a Hiwassee Watershed Advisory Council has been established and most of the existing board members will transition to this new programmatic advisory group that will also help with fundraising locally. In addition, two members of our board of directors – Mary Jo Deck and Katherine Taaffe – will join the MountainTrue board of directors starting with their August meeting.

Will the volunteer monitoring program continue?

Yes, absolutely. For the short-term, nothing will change. We will stay with Georgia Adopt-A-Stream and continue logging water chemistry and bacterial data for nearly 50 locations throughout the 4-county area as we've been doing for seven years. In time, we will be adding a stream macroinvertebrate monitoring program to our citizen science repertoire and it's possible that our water chemistry and E. coli methodologies will change. But we anticipated always maintaining a volunteer monitoring program.

What about the Watershed Gala?

Yes, we are keeping the Watershed Gala, which is tentatively planned for February 27, 2020 in the Charles Suber Banquet Hall at Young Harris College. Save the date!

And the Trout Dinner?

Yes, we're keeping that event too, although the time of year may change to better fit with MountainTrue's events calendar.

Will you keep the Alternative Breaks Program?

Yes. In fact, we already have Saginaw Valley State University confirmed for a winter break, December 15-20 and Grand Valley State University is already committed for spring break in 2020. Get ready to make lunches!

What about the Carson Scholarship?

Yes, as long as MountainTrue continues to receive donations for the scholarship program, we'll continue to award scholarships! At minimum, we are committed to the renewal of the existing scholarships through the college careers of the three students to whom the top scholarship has been awarded. We hope to continue the program for many years to come.

What is the biggest change in the day-to-day operations?

We will not have an "office administrator" and several different MountainTrue staff in the Asheville office will conduct most of Callie's former administrative responsibilities. Almost all of Tony's and Callie's time will be spent on programmatic work and projects throughout the western region, including the Hiwassee River basin.

What will be the office hours?

The best time to catch one of us in the office will be Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00-5:00. We will often be in Asheville on Mondays for staff meetings and that day is generally reserved for coordination with the larger MountainTrue organization. Callie will be working on Fridays, but since Tony will not, it will be harder to catch someone in the office that day. Since we won't have an office administrator, it will be even more important that you call or email us to set up a good time to talk.

Is my financial support really still needed?

Yes! We still need everyone's support to continue our vital programs in the Hiwassee River basin. General donations to MountainTrue will be attributed to the various offices' budgets by zip code, so your donations will continue to go straight into our budget for programs and projects in the western region.

Do I have to do anything to join MountainTrue?

No. All members of the Hiwassee River Watershed Coalition will be automatically transferred to the MountainTrue membership roster.

How can I learn more?

Visit the MountainTrue website: <https://mountaintrue.org/>.

Join us at the Staurolite Barn in Brasstown (60 Staurolite Drive) on August 17th, 5:30-9:00 PM for a celebration of the merger. You'll meet many of the other MountainTrue staff members and have a chance to talk with Callie and Tony about their experience so far.

Another opportunity will come on October 23rd. You will all be invited to attend the MountainTrue annual meeting that evening. We are planning to arrange some carpools so that people will have an option to ride with other HRWC members to the New Belgium Brewery in Asheville where our gathering will be held.

Of course, you may also contact Callie and Tony with your questions or concerns:

828-837-5414

callie@mountaintrue.org

tony@mountaintrue.org