**2017 Legislative Agenda**

*MountainTrue is a conservation organization active in 23 western North Carolina counties. We work with volunteers, farmers, business owners, elected officials, hunters, fishermen, scientists and many others, our goal is to help mountain communities by preserving and protecting the natural resources on which so much of our western economy depends.*

MountainTrue’s legislative agenda for 2017 includes:

*Post-Matthew and WNC Wildfire Disaster Prevention*

* MountainTrue encourages the General Assembly to advance WNC disaster prevention by investing in efforts to identify WNC communities at high risk for damage from wildfires and storm-induced landslides.
* MountainTrue also believes the legislature should provide resources to evaluate the flood risk of the 40 or so animal waste lagoons in WNC and prioritize those most in need of mitigation.

*Assistance for WNC Farmers*

* MountainTrue supports an increase in soil and water conservation funding to help to manage their farms while also protecting water quality in nearby streams and rivers.

*Clean Energy and Economic Development*

* MountainTrue supports the state’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.
* MountainTrue also supports the creation of new tools, such as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing and third party sales, to help home and business owners finance clean energy investments.

*Expand Open Space Conservation Investments*

* MountainTrue supports increased investment in the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, as well as those trusts for state parks and natural heritage.