

Rescuers Hike Miles to Rescue Injured Woman

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Sunday, 12 August 2012 05:59

A massive rescue effort was launched deep into the Sunalei Preserve on the Watauga County border with Tennessee, that after a woman fell along the steep, rocky trail, injuring her back. Watauga Rescue, Watauga Medics, Zionville Fire —and eventually fire crews from a number of departments—rolled to the staging area and hiked in a number of miles through the rugged terrain, taking in a backboard, stokes basket, then flashlights and other gear as the effort that started well before dusk, was to take until after darkness fell. The woman, about 35, struck her back next to her backbone in the fall according to rescuers, and had to be carefully carried—rolled where the terrain would allow—to the waiting ambulance.