

SOUTHERN FORESTS PROJECT

TENNESSEE



The Nature Conservancy and International Paper have undertaken a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect ecologically important forests, rivers and streams in 10 southern states. The Nature Conservancy will acquire more than 218,000 acres in the largest private land conservation project in the history of the southern U.S. Partners include state governments, federal agencies, the Department of Defense and timber investment entities.



Stream flowing through International Paper's Dry Branch property
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Flora forest photographed at International Paper's Dry Branch property in Tennessee.
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total area 2,569 acres
Lewis County (near Hohenwald, Tennessee)

representative species
tennessee yellow-eyed grass

THE PROJECT

Dry Branch and its tributaries house the most extensive population of Tennessee yellow-eyed grass. Tennessee yellow-eyed grass is federally endangered and listed as imperiled. The Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage and International Paper have managed a Registered State Natural Area here since 2003.

The site consists of seeps and small clumps of vegetation growing in limestone edges and cracks along Dry Branch Creek and its tributaries. Dry Branch Creek is one of six locations, all in Lewis County, where Tennessee yellow-eyed grass grows in Tennessee. The plant is found in only 15 locations throughout Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. The six locations in Lewis County represent the only extant occurrences of the plant in Tennessee.

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