

Redefining What's Possible

Appalachian Impact Report 2025

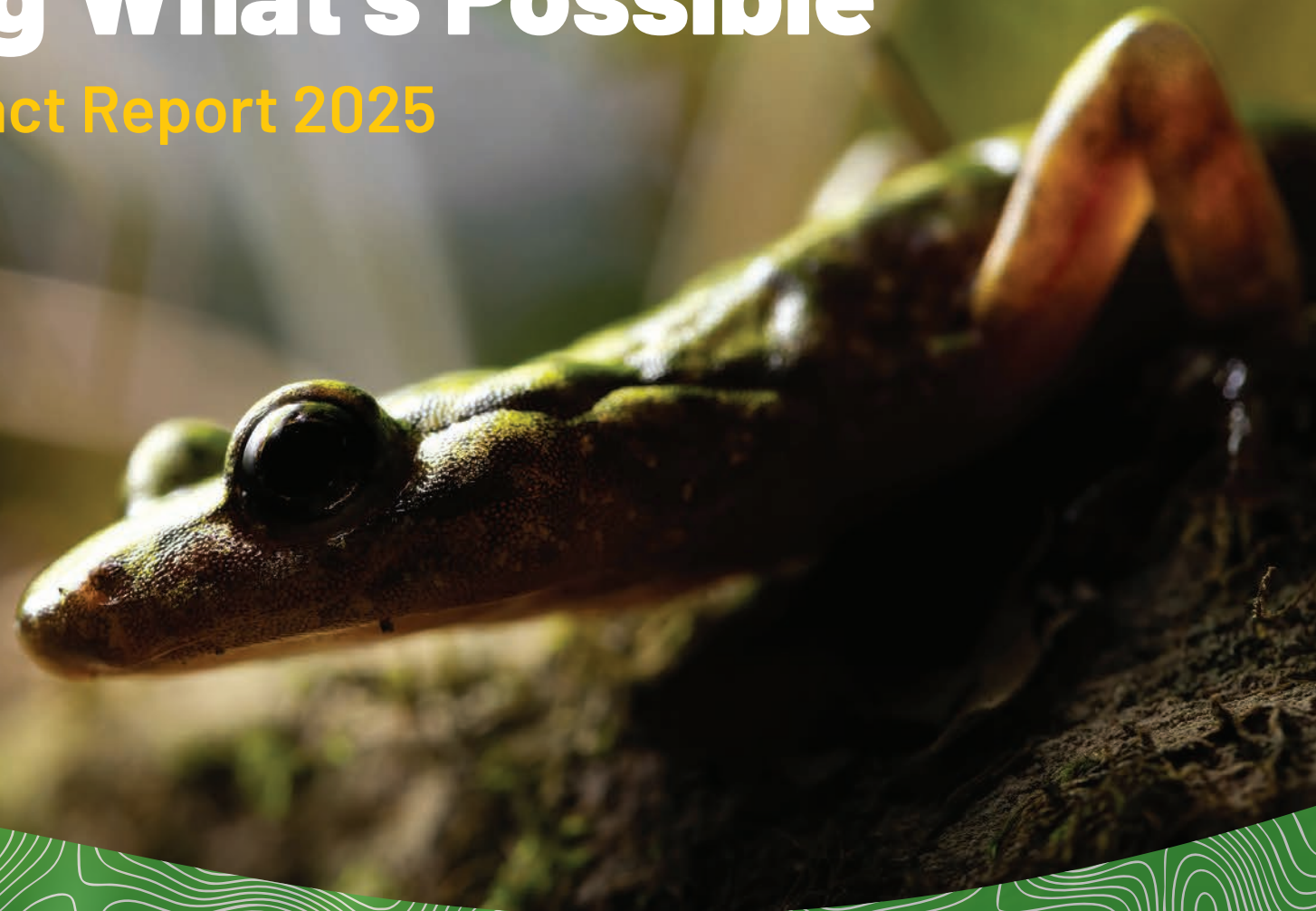


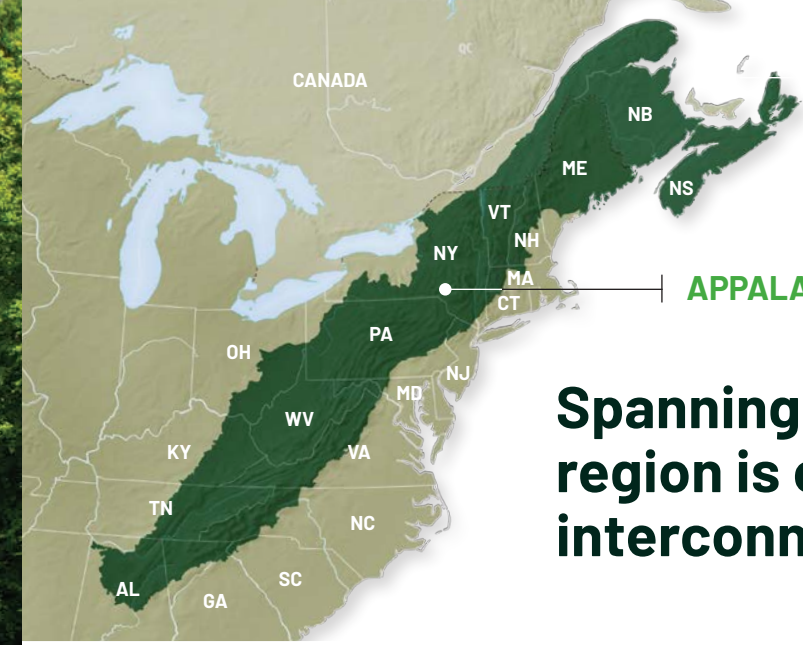
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Located in the heart of the Northern Appalachian Forest of western Maine, the 78,000-acre Magalloway project will connect a half-million acres of contiguous conserved lands critical for migratory species and strengthen opportunities for outdoor recreation and cultural restoration. The Nature Conservancy has joined together with Northeast Wilderness Trust, Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust and the Forest Society of Maine in an innovative partnership that leverages collective local and regional expertise to make this conservation effort possible. [Learn more at magalloway.org](https://magalloway.org)

Cover: Green Salamander spotted during a survey on the Edge of Appalachia Preserve in Ohio. © Aidan McCarthy/TNC Photo Contest 2023



Spanning 18 states and into Canada, the Appalachian region is one of the most ecologically important and interconnected landscapes on Earth.



It is also a place shaped by centuries of human use and by the environmental challenges we face everywhere: development, pollution, fragmentation and a rapidly changing climate.

Addressing challenges of this scale cannot be solved quickly or in isolation. Protecting this landscape is not a project with a short timeline. It is a multi-decade commitment to restore our lands, waters and forests in ways that will last for generations. That long view is exactly what our work is designed to deliver.

We've made so much progress this year: restoring forests and watersheds that bore the brunt of Hurricane Helene; increasing the health and diversity of forests to store more carbon; conserving and connecting thousands of acres so wildlife can safely migrate; reconnecting rivers by removing outdated obstructions to make communities safer and allow freshwater species to move and thrive; and investing in nonprofit partners, government agencies, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders who are protecting, restoring and connecting these critical places.

These efforts have unlocked public and private investment and built the partnerships needed to sustain progress over time. This is what durable conservation looks like—steady, credible and grounded in what has already been proven to work, and strengthened by innovation that meets today's challenges.

History reminds us that the most meaningful environmental progress has never happened all at once. Clean rivers, healthy forests and protected landscapes were not achieved in a single decade. They were the result of sustained effort, repeated year after year, guided by science and strengthened through collaboration. Our Appalachians effort stands firmly in that tradition—and progresses forward to endure a changing climate.

As warming temperatures reshape ecosystems, protecting and reconnecting landscapes like the Appalachians is one of the most effective ways to help people and nature adapt. We have made great progress—with your continued investment, we can build on that legacy, acting boldly at the scale of the problems we face to ensure this connected landscape continues to support wildlife, clean water and communities for centuries to come.

This report shows how we are redefining what's possible today—advancing meaningful change across rivers, lands and forests through the dedication of people who believe in long-term conservation. I'm deeply grateful to our partners, colleagues and donors who make this work real. Your support transforms complexity into action—and action into impact that endures.

With gratitude and optimism,

Heather Furman,
Appalachians Director,
The Nature Conservancy





As climate change drives wildlife to shift their ranges north, the Appalachian region has become one of the most important movement corridors in North America. © Peregrine Productions



APPALACHIAN LANDS Connected Nature, Thriving Biodiversity

You helped protect and connect critical Appalachian lands.

Together, we're delivering continental-scale conservation in the Appalachians—linking projects, partners and places into one connected strategy that is stronger than any single effort. As climate change reshapes where wildlife can survive, we're protecting and reconnecting the “natural highways” species need to move, adapt and thrive.

MILESTONES ▼

LAUNCHED

the Habitats and Highways Initiative to make roads safer for wildlife and people

EXPANDED

the Resilient and Connected Apps Grant Program to assist partners in land protection in all Appalachian states

23,512 ACRES

protected by TNC across the Appalachians in 2025

Crossing on the Green

Improving transportation infrastructure—roads, bridges, drainage—is critical to build a future where people and nature thrive. Centering nature in road design allows deer, bear, bobcat and more to safely cross, avoiding vehicle collisions that harm both wildlife and people.

In 2025, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) launched Northeast Habitats & Highways, an eight-state initiative uniting local Departments of Transportation (DOT), state fish and wildlife agencies and other key partners to tackle three shared challenges:

1. maintaining vital transportation networks while reducing habitat fragmentation;
2. improving road safety by decreasing collisions between drivers and wildlife;
3. helping communities avoid damaging floods.

From low-cost retrofits for smaller species, to road designs that support larger wildlife movement, to policy changes that shape how entire agencies operate, the program aims to spark collaboration and drive action benefiting people and wildlife region-wide. **Learn how collaboration is reshaping transportation infrastructure in your community at nature.org/habitatsandhighways**

Room to Roam

Habitat connectivity keeps wildlife healthy and drivers safe by linking natural areas with crossings for animals. The Northeast Habitats & Highways initiative is helping states adopt practical, wildlife-friendly designs that keep communities safer and habitats connected.

Meet some of the charismatic critters that benefit from this program at nature.org/crittercrossings

Safe Passage Across the Mass Pike

Interstate 90, or the Mass Pike, is a major east-west highway cutting through the Berkshire Wildlife Linkage, a key corridor connecting lands and waters in the north to the broader Appalachians. To combat fragmentation, TNC purchased 578 acres in Blandford, MA where two medium-sized culverts run underneath the Mass Pike. MassDOT and TNC installed trail cameras and are analyzing images with Animl, TNC's machine-learning tool, to see if wildlife are using the crossings. Early footage showed a coyote using a culvert to cross under four lanes of traffic. TNC plans to transfer the land to state agencies and work with partners to improve the places where wildlife need to move.



LISTEN

To dive deeper, check out our new podcast, “Nature is the Solution.” Episode 5, “The Appalachian Mosaic,” explores why this landscape is essential for wildlife, people and climate resilience.

A red fox hurries across a road.
© iStock/Brittany Crossman





Drone shot of the Potomac Highlands preserve in western Maryland. © Sev Smith/TNC

Expanding Protection on the Allegheny Front

Spanning 200 miles from West Virginia through western Maryland and into central Pennsylvania, the Allegheny Front forms a critical habitat bridge connecting conservation lands across the Appalachians.

Together with partners, we strengthened this regional connection by protecting key lands, increasing public access and expanding climate-resilient habitats.

Key successes include:

- ▶ **Secured more than 1,100 acres** at Dobbin Slashings in West Virginia, connecting public and private lands in the Canaan Valley/Dolly Sods landscape and linking nearly 80 miles of trails in one of the most climate-resilient regions of the Appalachians.
- ▶ **Added more than 1,400 acres** to protected lands in Pennsylvania, including TNC's largest Allegheny Front acquisition, safeguarding priority areas and opening new opportunities for public recreation.
- ▶ **Protected nearly 1,400 acres** in Maryland's Potomac Highlands, safeguarding habitat along the North Branch of the Potomac River—a vital drinking water source—through a collaborative, multi-state conservation partnership.*

* This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement 3D25824 to the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does the Environmental Protection Agency endorse trade names or recommend the use of commercial products mentioned in this document, as well as any images, video, text or other content created by generative artificial intelligence tools, nor does any such content necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Building Bobcat Alley

Bobcats are the Appalachians last remaining wild cat. Once nearly extinct in many states, they are trying to make a comeback. What these elusive cats need most right now is room to roam. We're working to protect critical habitat by protecting and connecting land on the Kittatinny Ridge and southern Highlands in New Jersey's section of the Appalachian Mountains. [Learn how you can protect bobcats in the Appalachians at nature.org/bobcats](https://www.nature.org/bobcats)

Partners Make It Possible

We are not doing this work alone. There are dozens of nonprofit partners, government agencies, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders who are protecting, restoring and connecting critical lands. To boost these efforts, TNC's Resilient and Connected Appalachians Grant Program expanded to all 18 states in the Appalachians region. In 2025, grants totaling over \$1 million were awarded to 14 organizations in 11 states, leveraging more than \$28M in public and private funding to support the acquisition of more than 17,000 acres. [Learn more about the program at bit.ly/rca-grant](https://bit.ly/rca-grant)

Athens Conservancy and TNC conserved nearly 3,000 acres of forested land in the southern Ohio foothills. The donated land, now known as the Joy Valley Nature Preserve, is mainly hardwood forest, home to oak, hickory and pine, providing vital habitat for migratory birds, including the cerulean warbler. The new preserve is one of the largest private land-protection efforts by nonprofits in Ohio's history.

Top: Adult bobcat near TNC's Johnsonburg Swamp Preserve, New Jersey. © Steve Winter

Inset: Joy Valley Preserve forest with ramps and vernal pools. © Terry Seidel/TNC



You Can Shape What Comes Next

Step by step, with sustained and focused effort and with your help, TNC is protecting and restoring a 2,000 mile climate resilient superhighway for nature.



APPALACHIAN RIVERS Restored and Reconnected

Little Tennessee River
© 2016 Dennis Oakley

The Fiske Mill hydro dam on the Ashuelot River in Hinsdale, New Hampshire.
© Jerry Monkman/
EcoPhotography.com



You helped restore and reconnect Appalachian rivers.

Together, we are healing our Appalachian waterways by removing dams, building better bridges and culverts, restoring watersheds and reconnecting floodplains.

MILESTONES ▼

LAUNCHED

the Appalachians Free Rivers Accelerator to speed dam removal at scale

INITIATED

One of the largest river restoration projects in the nation, which would reconnect over 800 miles of rivers and streams

1,370 MILES

of rivers and streams reconnected throughout the Appalachians in 2025

AWARDED

\$265,000 through the Reconnected Appalachian Rivers grant program—supported by the Enterprise Mobility Foundation—to restore rivers across six states

Free Rivers Unite!

When rivers are connected to their floodplains and surrounding landscapes, they support biodiversity, clean water, thriving fisheries and resilient communities. In 2025, we launched the **Appalachians Free Rivers Accelerator** to address the political, financial, technical and communication hurdles that prevent river flow restoration. By shifting from isolated efforts to a coordinated platform designed for large scale success, the accelerator is helping barrier removals move faster, reduce risk and deliver outcomes that once felt out of reach.

The Appalachians Free Rivers Accelerator marks a pivotal change in how The Nature Conservancy approaches freshwater conservation. Building on the Appalachians prototype, TNC has launched a global Free Rivers Accelerator, with a second regional accelerator in development in Europe's Western Balkans.

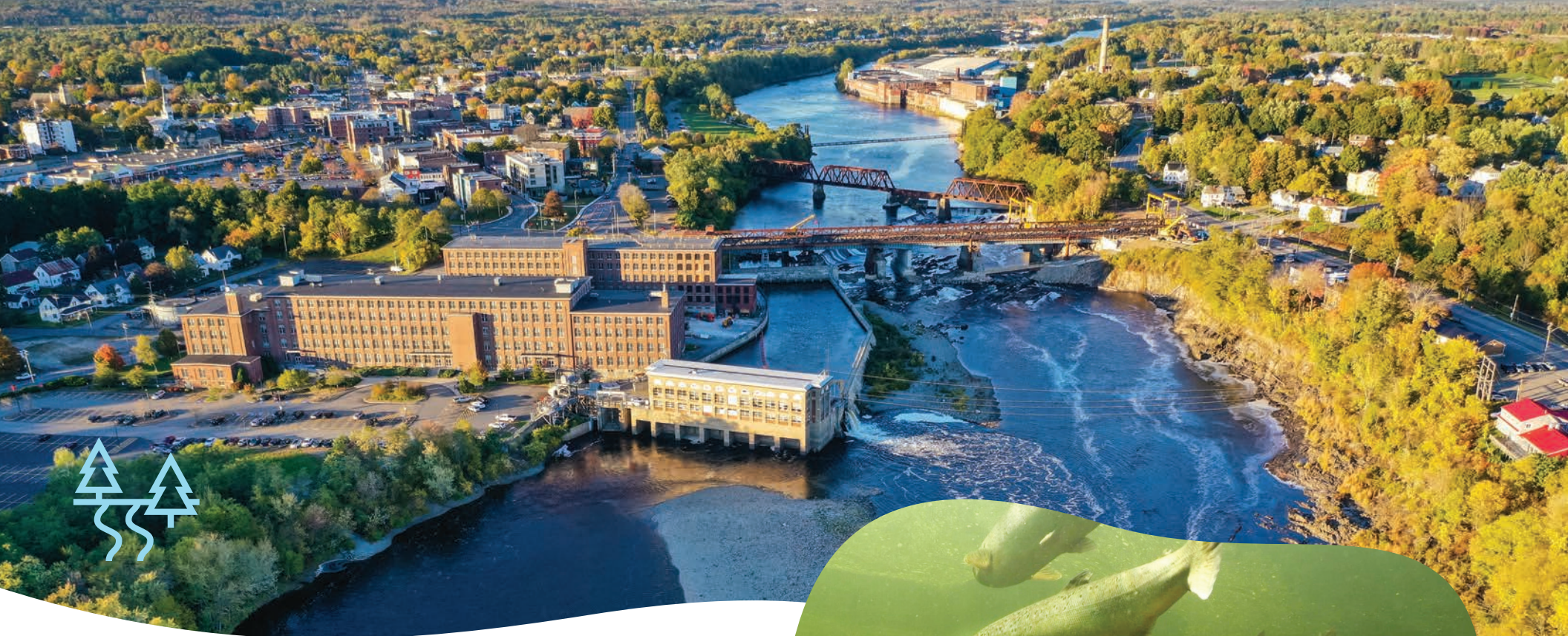


LEARN MORE

TNC's Voices of Dam Removal video series introduces you to homeowners, municipal leaders, recreational anglers and paddlers and others who are collaborating to free our rivers from unnecessary barriers.

Accelerations include:

- ▶ **In New Hampshire, the removal of the Fiske Mill Dam** on the Ashuelot River will reconnect 233 miles of habitat in a biodiversity hot-spot supporting endangered freshwater mussels, cold-water communities and migratory fish. The dam site will be reimagined as a cultural and recreational asset in downtown Hinsdale. Support from the accelerator helped unlock over \$600,000 in additional funding.
- ▶ **Along Beaver Brook in Massachusetts, the removal of three dams**—Navy Yard, Victory Lane, and Collinsville—has the potential to reconnect 37 miles of river habitat to the ocean, benefiting migratory fish, otters and turtles. Accelerator support kick-started the work with the sediment sampling and analysis necessary to begin removal.



A Landmark Effort to Restore the Kennebec

The Kennebec River flows from Maine’s north woods to the Atlantic Ocean, and once carried millions of sea-run fish up and downriver, including hundreds of thousands of endangered Atlantic salmon.

These migrations sustained people and wildlife, and were central to the culture of the Wabanaki, who have lived along the river for millennia. Dense hydroelectric dam construction has caused the Kennebec’s annual run of salmon to drop to nearly zero.

Last fall, TNC and Brookfield Renewable reached an agreement for the purchase of four dams on the lower Kennebec to begin one of the largest river restorations in the nation, reconnecting more than 800 miles of rivers and streams.



Working with partners, TNC plans to return free-flowing conditions and enable salmon to reach their spawning grounds along the Sandy River. This agreement is one step in a long process to restore the river’s ecological health while strengthening the region’s economy.

Over the coming years, the restoration process will involve close collaboration with riverside communities, municipalities, state and federal agencies, Tribal Nations, nonprofits and businesses to ensure the outcomes benefit both people and nature.
Learn more at nature.org/kennebec

Top: The Lockwood Dam on the Kennebec River in Waterville, Maine. © Jerry and Marcy Monkman/EcoPhotography
Inset: © Atlantic Salmon Federation

Partnerships Spotlight

In 2025 TNC and its partners removed the Lower Citico Creek Dam, the final barrier on one of the most biologically significant tributaries of the Little Tennessee River, located in Cherokee National Forest.

More than 67 miles of connected stream habitat now flow freely through a watershed home to more than 60 fish and mussel species, including the federally endangered Citico darter and Smoky madtom. The removal caps a multiyear effort addressing stream barriers that began in 2021 with TNC and several partners, including the U.S. Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, Conservation Fisheries, the University of Tennessee and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Lower Citico Creek Dam before removal.
© Lucas Curry



► What is a Culvert?

A culvert is a tunnel-like structure that channels water under a roadway. Undersized culverts can block fish and wildlife passage, erode stream banks and cause water to back up and flood roads.

Upgrading undersized culverts is a powerful action that communities and private landowners can take to boost their climate resilience and reduce flood risk, while improving ecological health. In 2025, TNC restored over 60 miles of Appalachian rivers by replacing 27 major culverts in four states.

© Liz Burdick Arts



You Can Shape What Comes Next

With your support, we will continue to lead some of the most impactful and complex barrier removal projects in the United States to reconnect rivers and restore biodiversity, safeguard clean drinking water for more than 36 million people, reduce flood risk and strengthen communities.



APPALACHIAN FORESTS Restored and Resilient

You helped strengthen the health of our forests.

By restoring natural cycles and advancing climate adapted forest management, we are creating the conditions Appalachian forests need to regenerate naturally, store more carbon and sustain wildlife and livelihoods over the long term.

View from Hawksbill Mountain—overlooking the Linville Gorge in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. © Maranda Johns/TNC Photo Contest 2019

MILESTONES ▼

140,000
native tree seedlings planted

120,000 ACRES
of forest managed for health, diversity and sustainability

70,000 ACRES
restored with controlled fire



Top: New York Reforestation Manager Mandy St. Hillaire checking on a recent tree planting in upstate, NY.

Inset: Black walnut seeds being prepared for cleaning and planting in nurseries to be used in future restoration projects. Photos © Nancie Battaglia

Building the Roots of Reforestation

Replanting thousands of acres only works with millions of seedlings that will thrive and become mature members of a diverse forest. Locally appropriate planting stock is critical for restoration projects, yet existing nurseries are struggling to meet demand. To restore forests at a continental scale, The Nature Conservancy is strengthening the systems behind tree planting—expanding available native stock and increasing economic sustainability.

One success includes creating an Appalachian-wide species framework—first piloted in New York and now scaled across the region—that identifies a focused set of native trees, including spruce, oak and pine. This framework guides landowners’ planting decisions and helps nurseries meet demand, building a sound foundation for reforestation.

Another features our partnership with Rural Action in Ohio to pilot construction of a rural workforce collecting seed from local forests, recruiting farmers to become part of a nursery collaborative growing up to 60,000 seedlings for resilient reforestation.

TNC’s Plant a Billion Trees campaign provides funds for reforestation initiatives that restore healthy forests and address critical barriers to increasing the pace and scale of reforestation, worldwide. In 2025, the campaign reached a major milestone with more than five million trees planted across eight countries, and another million pledged. The Appalachians is a priority geography for the campaign and, so far, more than 1.5 million trees have been planted in the Appalachians since 2012.

Learn more at [nature.org/plantabillion](https://www.nature.org/plantabillion)

Lucie Law, Freshwater Restoration Specialist for TNC in North Carolina, surveys flood impacts from Hurricane Helene in the Big Ivy area of Pisgah National Forest.
© Sara Gottlieb/TNC



Healing After Hurricane Helene

In September 2024 Hurricane Helene devastated communities and landscapes across the southeastern United States. The storm brought flooding, landslides and downed trees to already fragile ecosystems that are home to rich biodiversity, vital freshwater systems and communities that depend on them for clean water, recreation and economic stability.

Federal, state and private efforts to assist those affected by the storm began immediately and are ongoing. In 2025, together with partners, TNC completed initial ecological assessments across the most severely impacted forests and watersheds, identifying priority areas where forest damage posed the greatest risks to water quality, wildlife habitat and community safety. This early assessment work ensured that recovery efforts moved quickly from emergency response to strategic, long-term restoration.

Working alongside the U.S. Forest Service, we are now scaling restoration across some of the region's most vital public lands and advancing coordinated recovery efforts across more than 330,000 acres—stabilizing forests, protecting downstream water supplies and helping communities rebuild stronger and safer landscapes for the future.

- ▶ **Hurricane Helene threatened one of the world's rarest salamanders**—the endangered Hickory Nut Gorge green salamander, found only in a 14-mile stretch of North Carolina. With an entire global population estimated at just 300–500 individuals, an emergency rescue and captive-breeding effort is now helping prevent extinction. **Learn more about the rescue mission at nature.org/GreenSalamander**



© Benji Jones/Vox

- ▶ **Healthy Appalachian forests are a lifeline for nearly 100 migratory bird species**, including the Cerulean Warbler—providing the connected habitat they need to travel, rest and breed across continents. But with only 26% of forests protected, conserving resilient forests is essential to safeguard these extraordinary journeys. **Meet the travelers at nature.org/migrationmarvels**



© Matt Williams



Partnership Spotlight

TNC is working to return controlled fire to Appalachian forests to restore native habitats, strengthen ecosystem resilience and support the recovery of culturally significant and endangered species. Central to this work is deepening collaboration with Indigenous partners whose knowledge has guided fire stewardship for generations.

In partnership with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, TNC supported a community cultural burn and eco-cultural fire training that certified Tribal members for prescribed burning and federal fire work. The week-long fire training, spearheaded by Eastern Band of Cherokee Natural Resources Department with teachers primarily from Eastern Cherokee Bureau of Indian Affairs, saw 31 participants—including 29 enrolled members of the Tribe—complete the federal basic wildland fire training with a uniquely tailored and Elder-instructed eco-cultural focus. The training featured generous contributions and presentations from many, with cultural fire relations teachings shared by EBCI Natural Resources Department, EBCI Earth Keepers, the EBCI Language Immersion Program, Atsila Anotasgi Cultural Specialists, Mother Town Program, Center for Native Health and Cultural Fire Management Council.

Top: Tommy Cabe, Forest Resource Specialist at EBCI's Natural Resources Department and EBCI enrolled member, leads a field tour teaching cultural fire objectives to course participants in Bird Town.

Below: EBCI Members enrolled in the Mother Town Healing Program pose with their course certificates at the end of the week-long basic wildland fire (NWCG) and cultural fire relations training.



Sam Blythe, EBCI enrolled member and Cherokee BIA fire crew leader, demonstrates live reel engine operations for course participants. All photos by Sasha Berleman/TNC



You Can Shape What Comes Next

The forests of the future are being nurtured now. You can help TNC continue its work with local communities to improve how we manage our forests, and bring back the native species that store carbon, support wildlife and local economies.

Donor Spotlights



Sandra and Bob Taylor

Investing in durable solutions to complex problems

The forests that surrounded Philadelphia’s western suburbs offered an endlessly fascinating setting for Sandra’s childhood exploration. The peaks of the White Mountains fueled summer adventure for Bob, the youngest of five children. Whatever part of the Appalachian geography, they both always connected to nature. As Sandra says, “Nature encourages you to slow down and reset.”

Sandra and Bob Taylor both quickly appreciated The Nature Conservancy’s science-informed approach to conservation. From there, the couple brought their different approaches to bear on learning more about how TNC is working in the Appalachians. From Bob’s perspective, “Climate change and long-term conservation projects are enormously complex, but TNC’s multi-decade effort in the Appalachians is proactively addressing the problems of a warming climate and declining species.” For Sandra, “The creation of a resilient and connected corridor of forest across a vast landscape inspires hope that we can protect our natural world for generations to come.” Together, Sandra and Bob invested in TNC’s work in the Appalachians with long-term vision in mind—supporting steady step-by-step progress that builds complex and durable solutions over decades.

Patricia Little

Nature doesn’t care about political boundaries

As a lifelong financial professional, Patricia Little has a keen eye for bottom line results. Born and raised in Iowa, the former CFO of The Hershey Company has prioritized the environment and climate change in her philanthropy. She identified The Nature Conservancy as an important recipient because we “operate at scale around the world.” Patricia and her husband Ray support multiple initiatives at TNC, including Global Climate issues and work across the Midwest, Great Plains and the Appalachians. “I rely on TNC’s scientific expertise, and their ability to identify and address the biggest challenges to determine the best use of our money,” says Patricia.

She and her husband have always been motivated by the big picture, addressing conservation at-scale to tackle climate change and keep ecosystems intact. “The personal connection isn’t what drives me,” Patricia emphasizes, “we fund conservation aimed at solving big problems like climate change, and in the Appalachians, by protecting this vital north-south corridor to keep forest intact and sequester carbon.”

Patricia is also helping drive change in how TNC raises money and encourages funders to think expansively. “It is important to me the way the Appalachian initiative is moving past ‘small scale/local’ to evaluate projects for the best return on investment, irrespective of where that is. We need more funders thinking in these terms if we are really going to move the needle.”

Two black bear cubs along the Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina. © Adam Mowery/TNC Photo Contest 2023

Paige, Beth and Sally Crane

Thinking in generations, not years

For Paige, Beth and Sally Crane, conservation is not a single act of generosity—it’s a shared family responsibility shaped by a deep appreciation for wild places and the people who protected them before us. As siblings, they are united by the belief that access to nature is both a gift and an obligation: something to enjoy fully today, and to safeguard deliberately for generations to come.

“I would say to anyone considering a contribution to TNC that your donation will be put to the best possible use to ensure that our wild landscapes stay wild. And that future generations depend on our generosity as we have depended on the forward thinkers who saved thousands and thousands of acres for our enjoyment and ability to experience beautiful landscapes in a pristine state.”

—Paige Crane

“Whether it’s at a park, in a field or meadow, or in a forest, it is wonderful to be able to experience the calm of these natural areas, which are presently available to all, but which need to be protected for the future. The Nature Conservancy is working to conserve and protect areas of the Appalachians for all of us to enjoy, for now as well as for the future. It is crucial that they have the support needed to do this, and we, as a family, have felt the need to do our part.”

—Beth Crane

“Last year I helped support the Joy Valley Nature Preserve, 3,000 acres of forested land in the southern Ohio foothills that are part of the vital Appalachian wildlife corridor. We can all play a part: whether through financial contributions to TNC, or the donation of conservation easements or gifts of land, we can be assured that all of us have the opportunity to enjoy and learn from Ohio’s natural beauty.”

—Sally Crane Cox

2030 Goals

Across the Appalachians, our multi-state effort to protect, restore and reconnect this vast and vital migratory corridor contribute to achieving TNC's global 2030 goals.



3B

Avoid or sequester 3 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually—the same as taking 650 million cars off the road every year.



100M

Help 100 million people at severe risk of climate-related emergencies by safeguarding habitats that protect communities.



650M

Conserve 650 million hectares—a land area twice the size of India—of biodiverse habitats such as forests, grasslands and desert.



4B

Conserve 4 billion hectares of marine habitat—more than 10% of the world's oceans—through protected areas, sustainable fishing and more.



1M+30M

Conserve 1 million kilometers of rivers—enough to stretch 25 times around the globe—plus 30 million hectares of lakes and wetlands.



45M

Support the leadership of 45 million people from Indigenous and local communities in stewarding their environment and securing rights.

Tank Hollow Falls in Cleveland, Virginia.
© Steven David Johnson

Gratitude from the Appalachians

The Appalachians form a biologically diverse and carbon-rich landscape like no other on Earth. This remarkable system of forested mountains, valleys, and rivers nurture, connect and sustain us. Our heartfelt gratitude to the many supporters, partners and colleagues who shape what we do and push us to be as effective and impactful as possible.

The path to transformative change in the Appalachians is only possible with each and every one of you.



WATCH

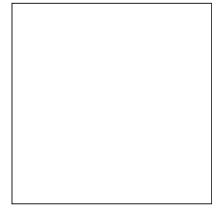
The Cumberland Forest Project—one of The Nature Conservancy's largest conservation projects in the eastern U.S.—integrates forest restoration, sustainable timber management, community benefits and more across 250k+ acres of working forest (spanning KY, TN and VA), made possible by a unique and ambitious impact investing model that brings together private, public and philanthropic funding to achieve landscape-scale impact. **Learn more by visiting nature.org/cumberland**

Aerial image of Fern Lake which spans across the Kentucky and Tennessee border. © Cameron Davidson



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To learn more about
how you can contribute
to Appalachian solutions,
please contact:

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River otters play a key role in supporting healthy Appalachian waterways, balancing the food web and shaping habitat for other wildlife. Like most species across the region, otters need connected streams and safe land crossings to thrive. © David Venable/TNC