

2022  
IMPACT  
REPORT  
CUMBERLAND FOREST

natureVest™

The Nature  
Conservancy 

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All statements in this Impact Report other than historical facts are forward-looking statements, which rely on a number of estimates, projections and assumptions concerning future events. Such statements are also subject to a number of uncertainties and factors outside TNC's control. Such factors include, but are not limited to, uncertainty regarding and changes in global economic or market conditions, including those affecting industries related to the material presented in this Impact Report, and changes in US or foreign government policies, laws, regulations and practices. Opinions expressed are current opinions as of the date of this Impact Report. Should estimates, projections and assumptions or these other uncertainties and factors materialize in unexpected ways, actual results could differ materially from the forward-looking statements in this Impact Report. While the assumptions underlying these forward-looking statements may be reasonable under current circumstances, readers should bear in mind that such assumptions are inherently uncertain and subjective, and that past or projected performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. No representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this Impact Report, and nothing shall be relied upon as a promise or representation as to the performance of any investment in Cumberland Forest, LP.





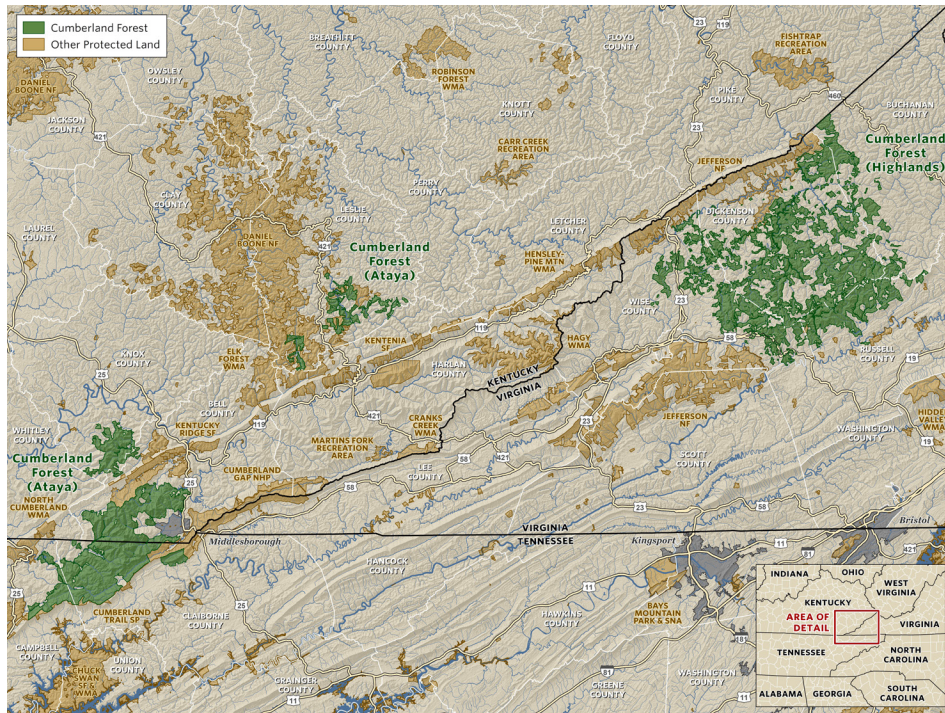
Clinch River near Artrip, Virginia © Cameron Davidson



# INTRODUCTION

**The Cumberland Forest Project** is an impact investment fund formed in 2018 to acquire and operate 253,000 acres of working forest land in the Central Appalachians. Backed by private investors, the Project seeks to provide positive conservation, community, and financial returns. The Project comprises two properties known as Ataya, located in Kentucky and Tennessee, and Highlands, located in Virginia that together represent one of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) largest conservation projects in the eastern United States. This report provides a summary of the conservation and community impacts delivered by the Project across its entire portfolio in 2022.

**Greg Meade**  
*Director, Cumberland  
Forest Project,  
NatureVest*



**FIGURE 1.** Map of Portfolio and Adjacent Protected Areas

In the following pages, we take stock of the Project’s progress towards long-term impact goals related to sustainable forest management, long-term protection, climate mitigation, recreational access, and local economic development. Data related to the physical attributes of the properties have been collected by TNC. We have used publicly available data where possible.

In this fourth year of operations, the Project continued to make meaningful progress towards several goals across all targeted areas. These include:

- » Successful placement of a public access lease on over 21,000 acres of Highlands property located in Virginia through the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- » Continued management of the properties in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) principles and criteria
- » Reaching cumulative carbon sequestration of 3.5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e), verified through the California Air Resources Board
- » Passage of legislation<sup>1</sup> by the Kentucky Legislature directing the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to acquire a public access conservation easement to provide lasting protection on the Kentucky portion of the Ataya property, approximately 55,000 acres

<sup>1</sup> TNC’s efforts to promote legislation are not funded by Cumberland Forest LP

» Placement of the Cumberland Forest Project in *National Geographic’s* September 2022 cover story, “New Ideas for Protecting Land, Water and Wildlife”

In the report that follows, additional details and metrics are provided to aid in tracking progress over time. We also include qualitative updates from the field regarding the impact of the Project’s ownership and operation of the properties on the local environment and adjacent communities.

We also wish to acknowledge, with respect, that the land currently being managed is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Cherokee, Shawnee, and Yuchi Nations and peoples. These areas are also historical sites of trade, gathering, and healing for numerous other Native tribes. We respectfully acknowledge, recognize, and affirm these Indigenous peoples as the original stewards of this landscape and all relatives within, and pay respects and gratitude to their elders and management, past and present.

It is our privilege to manage these assets, to the benefit of people and nature, and we hope everyone finds this report both informative and inspiring. We thank the fund’s investors and other supporters who are making these positive impacts on the environment and local communities possible.

# PROTECTION

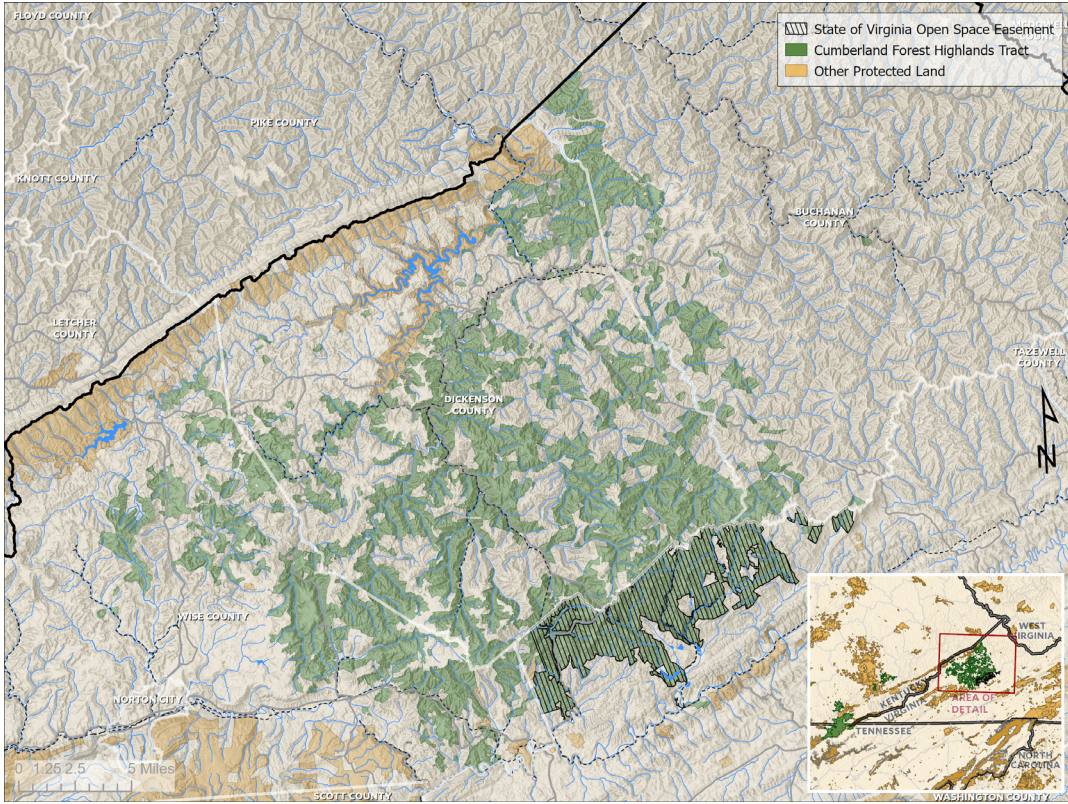
The Central Appalachian region spans six states and, at more than 50,000 square miles, is a globally significant biodiversity hotspot, a major North American migratory corridor, and home to a network of watersheds vital to both people and nature. The Project's properties provide connectivity to federal, state and other protected lands (Figure 1) that scientists believe can help promote climate resilience through "escape routes" as plant and animal species shift their ranges to cooler climates. One of the Project's conservation goals is to protect as many environmentally significant areas as possible, while continuing to sustainably operate the properties for timber, carbon, and other revenue. Protections on the properties have been and will continue to be accomplished through sales of conservation easements and fee land sales to public agencies, as well as the long-term forest management requirements associated with forest carbon projects.

As of 2022, we have secured **permanent protection on 26% of the Project's total acreage**, as a result of two conservation easements. The first is a 22,856-acre open-space easement on the Russell County, Virginia portion of the Highlands Property, conveyed to the Virginia Department of Forestry in 2019 (Figure 2). The second is a public access conservation easement that protects 42,766 acres of the Ataya property (Figure 3) located in Tennessee in 2021.

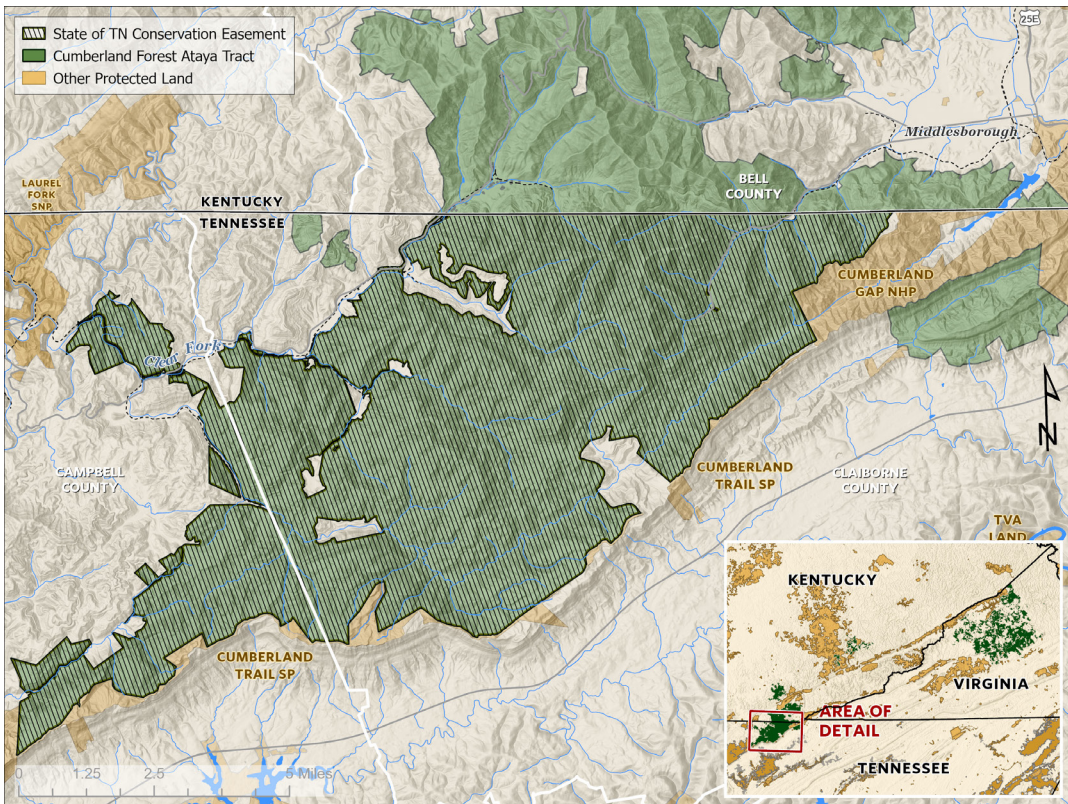
During its 2022 Legislative Session, the Kentucky General Assembly included a one-time allocation in the state budget for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) to acquire a permanent conservation/recreation easement on Cumberland Forest's Ataya property. This funding will be joined with federal Pittman-Robertson funding for the full cost of the easement and associated due diligence on all 55,380 acres of the Kentucky portion of Ataya (Figure 4). On December 7, 2022 The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) received a \$650,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to assist with the costs of acquiring the Kentucky public access conservation easement. With funding in place, we are working with our partners at KDFWR and RMEF on due diligence and other steps we hope will facilitate the closing of the easement.



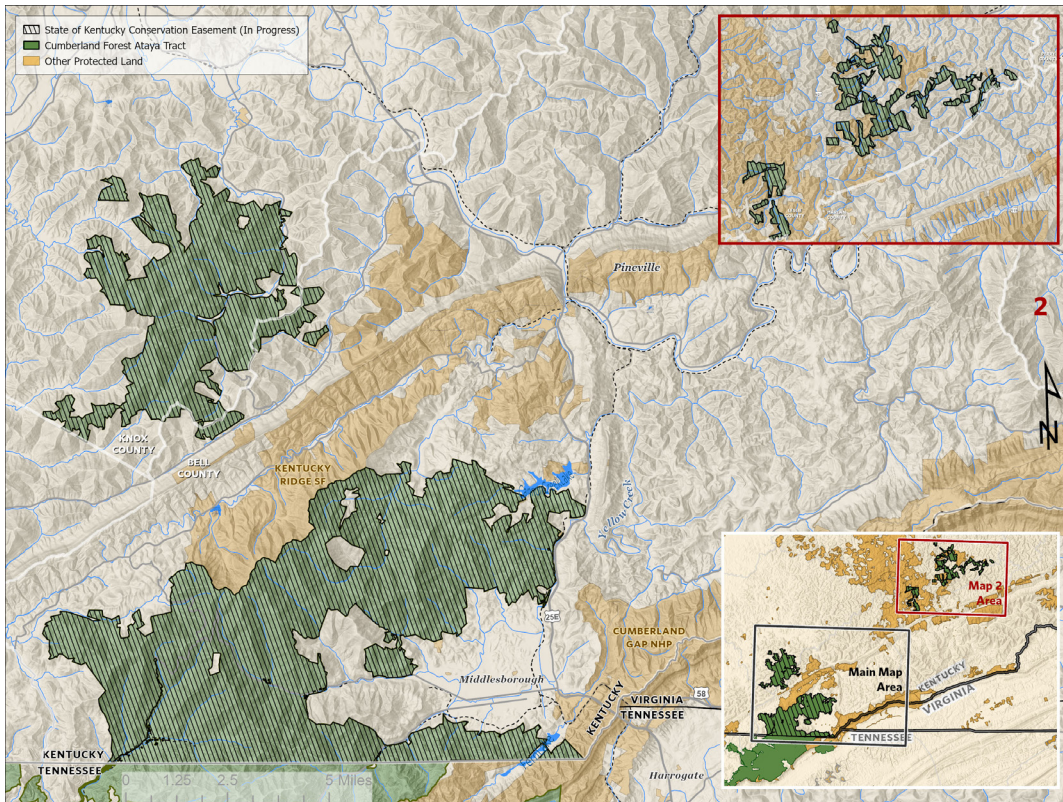
Little Stony Falls in Jefferson National Forest, Virginia © Steven David Johnson



**FIGURE 2.** Map of VDOF Easement on the Highlands Property



**FIGURE 3.** Map of TWRA Easement on the Ataya Property



**FIGURE 4.** Map of Proposed KDFWR Easement on the Highlands Property



*Ataya stretches across the horizon, as seen from the Hatfield Knob Viewing Tower, LaFollette, Tennessee*

Hatfield Knob Elk Platform view towards Ataya © Ronald Lambert/TNC

# FORESTRY

The Project manages all properties under FSC-certification and has a goal of increasing timber stocking over time to both sequester carbon and improve the overall quality of the forest across the portfolio. This is achieved by carefully managing forest management operations, including timber harvesting, to support a healthy forest ecosystem and increased resilience.

During 2022, the Project continued **FSC-certification on all the forested acreage**, completing the annual third-party audits in full conformance to FSC standards. This certification has been a significant achievement for sustainable forestry in each state, as the Project's land now represent 17% and 22% of the entire FSC certified acreage in the states of Kentucky and Tennessee respectively, and 66% of FSC certified acreage in Virginia.<sup>2</sup> During 2022 we continued to recognize an increased demand for FSC certified timber. This is a direct recognition in the marketplace that timber produced in accordance with FSC standards is providing co-benefits above and beyond what typical forestry delivers.

The Project currently targets annual timber harvest rates of only 20% to 30% of natural growth, leading to a net increase in the properties' timber inventory. This approach is designed to provide resilient landscapes by creating diverse age class and ecosystem structures across the properties. In 2022, the Project conducted harvests on 709 acres, primarily as patch regeneration harvests. These harvests typically range in size from four to 10 acres and are separated by unharvested retention areas that supply seed sources, provide habitat connectivity and diversity, reduce visual impact on the landscape and protect water resources. Harvesting activities directly supported 65 jobs, including property management and logging crews working on the properties. Additional indirect jobs were supported in trucking, log yards and mills that are part of the forest products value chain.

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<sup>2</sup> Based on most recent data from FSC for the year 2020





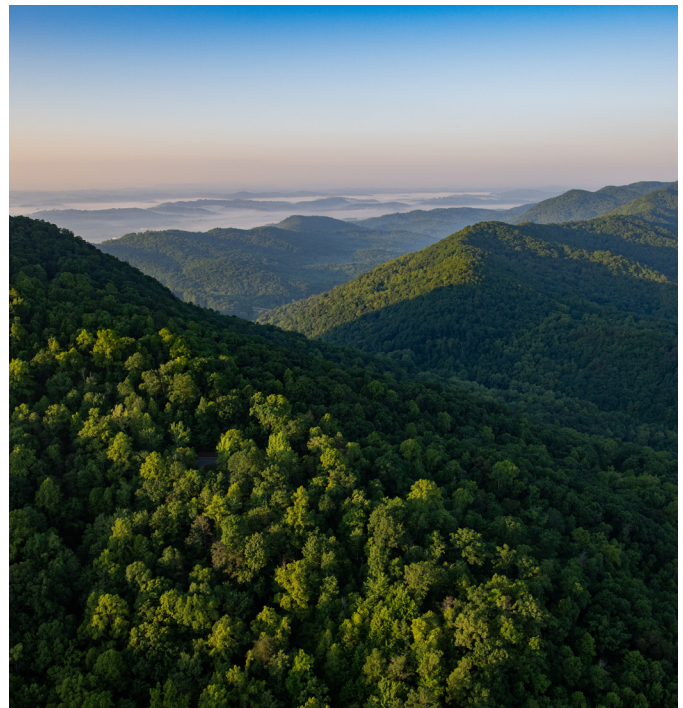
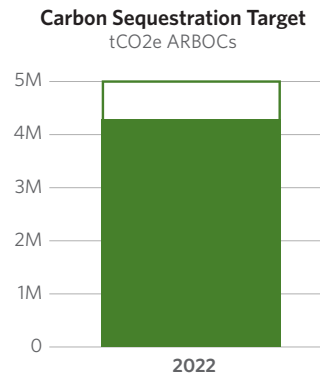
# CLIMATE MITIGATION

The Project has an overall goal of sequestering 5 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e (gross)<sup>3</sup> through 2028. During 2022 the forests within the properties sequestered more than 189,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalency (tCO<sub>2</sub>e), bringing the cumulative total to 4.2 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e, representing 86% of the long-term goal.

During 2022, carbon sequestration resulted from net growth of timber stocks as harvest rates were maintained below annual forest growth. The Project's carbon sequestration in 2022 is equivalent to taking more than 42,058 cars off the road for one year.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to carbon sequestration, the Project continued to advance our work on climate mitigation through the advancement of seven utility scale solar projects in collaboration with Suntribe Solar and Dominion Energy. These "solar on mined lands" sites cover approximately 700 acres of previously disturbed, former surface mining lands on the Cumberland Forest properties. Collectively, these projects have the potential to generate approximately 120 megawatts of solar power, enough to provide electricity to 22,800 homes.<sup>5</sup>

Across six of the sites, Suntribe Solar continued its efforts on permitting, geotechnical assessments, interconnection studies with utilities, and marketing of power purchase agreements. In coordination with Wise County, Suntribe Solar has estimated that four of its projects will generate more than \$6 million in local tax revenue. The 10-megawatt "Highlands Solar" site is the most advanced to date, having completed the interconnection process with Appalachian Power and its Phase One Environmental Assessments and wetlands delineations. Additionally, the company has implemented ground penetrating radar studies and dug test pits in the field to determine the geophysical nature of the mine spoil on which the solar panels will be mounted. The project is slated for 2025 construction, subject to reaching a final non-disturbance agreement with third-party mineral owners and is currently seeking a power purchase agreement with either a corporate partner or utility.



Cumberland Gap in Kentucky © Cameron Davidson

<sup>3</sup> All carbon figures are presented in gross tons, which includes both saleable carbon offsets and carbon offsets deposited into required buffer accounts.

<sup>4</sup> Based on EPA average vehicle greenhouse gas emissions data. As accessed on January 26, 2022: <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator#results>

<sup>5</sup> Calculation based on information provided by Solar Energy Industries Association: <https://www.seia.org/initiatives/whats-megawatt>

Dominion Energy continues to expand its solar development efforts at the former Red Onion Surface Mine site to include property nearby Cumberland Forest. Dominion Energy has proceeded with pre-development activities such as environmental, civil engineering, survey work, and launching the company’s internal environmental justice review process. The company anticipates construction to commence in 2026 with operations occurring in 2027.

By developing solar on previously disturbed surface mine sites rather than intact forests or other important wildlife habitats, the Project is seeking to set a high standard for

siting renewables in a way that avoids and minimizes impacts to the environment. Well-sited renewable energy projects on non-forested, previously disturbed areas can help create positive outcomes such as clean energy and the creation of new local tax revenues while conserving the surrounding forests in support of clean water, wildlife, wood projects, carbon storage, and outdoor recreation. If successfully developed, these solar projects will be some of the first solar farms on abandoned mine lands in Appalachia, helping to launch a new chapter in the region’s long history of providing domestic energy.



Sun Tribe, Bold Camp © TNC

# RESTORATION

The project seeks to restore as much abandoned mined land and previously mined land as possible back to a pre-mined condition as well as work with state and federal regulatory agencies to address as many of the abandoned mine land (AML) features as possible. AML features are relics of a bygone era in which mining was only loosely regulated, which resulting in less-than-ideal reclamation or in many cases no reclamation efforts. This is slow, arduous work that requires bringing together many interested partners, but the results are inspiring.

To date we have worked with Virginia Energy to correct 6 AML features that included slide remediation, improved drainage, and GOB coal removal. We are currently collaborating with Virginia Energy on five additional AML projects that will seal portal entries, address drainage issues, and eliminate a potential small landslide that could potentially threaten a private residence. In addition to these ongoing projects, we are currently working with the regulatory agencies to identify as many AML features on the property as possible, which is the first step towards rehabilitating the sites.

We worked with our partner [Green Forests Work](#) in 2022 to complete a 140-acre restoration project in Bell County, Kentucky on previously mined land that brought together many additional partners. Funding was secured from the U.S. Forest Service, the Arbor Day Foundation, Beam Suntory, Artic Express, Angel's Envy, and other Green Forests Work donors. The restoration included the removal of invasive species on the site and loosening of soil that had been severely compacted as part of the mining operation. With the site prepared, professional tree planters were utilized to plant 24 species of native trees, and the planting crew spread 525 pounds of seed for native warm season grasses and wildflowers across the site. In conjunction with the tree planting activities, a series of small wetlands and vernal pools were created to offer important habitat diversity and improve water quality.



From top: Riverside Rentals River Access CPRCD Community Fund; Culvert Installation CF Ataya; Powell River Canoe Access © Ronald Lambert/TNC (all three)

# RECREATION

The Project seeks to expand recreational access on the property while at the same time minimizing the environmental impact of the recreation program. The Project pursues this goal by working with multiple partners including public agencies, private hunting clubs, local governments, and recreational authorities.

## Public Access

The Project currently has two leases and one public access easement that provide public access to 59% (149,000 acres) of the fund’s holdings (Table 5). All hunting and fishing activities are regulated by state agencies, require appropriate permits, and fish and game law enforcement staff patrol the properties to ensure compliance with general laws and regulations.

In addition, the Project has a private hunting license program that provides access for hunting and fishing to private individuals and hunt clubs in designated areas. This includes 2,636 acres in Tennessee and 79,133 acres in Virginia, which was leased in 2022 to 196 hunting clubs comprised of 285 individual members.

In Virginia, we secured an additional public access lease through the Public Opportunities for Wildlife-Related Recreation (POWRR) program that added 21,229 acres to the previously existing Public Access Lands for Sportsmen



A StreamSweepers employee pulls a canoe to shore on the Clinch River, Virginia. © Travis Dove

(PALs) program, bringing the combined acreage open to public recreation in Virginia to more than 51,000 acres. Importantly this expansion provides the first public access to outdoor recreation in Buchanan County.

**TABLE 1.** Public Access Leases and Public Access Easements

	Kentucky Lease	Virginia Lease	Tennessee Public Access Easement	Total
<b>Acres</b>	55,000	51,000	42,750	<b>148,750</b>
<b>Access Partner</b>	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR)	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR)	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA)	
<b>Details</b>	Wildlife Management Area (WMA) allows for public hunting, fishing, hiking, and other non-motorized recreation; Ataya provides more than one third of all public hunting land across its three counties in Kentucky	Public Access Lands for Sportsmen (PALs) program allows for public hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing  Public Opportunities for Wildlife-Related Recreation (POWRR) program.	Recently transferred public access conservation easement allows for public hunting, non-motorized recreation, and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use by permit, and managed by TWRA	

## Elk Reintroduction

The Project's properties sit in the epicenter of elk reintroduction efforts in Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia. Eastern elk were originally native to the area but were hunted extensively as Europeans spread west into the Appalachians and were eventually declared extinct in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Re-introduction efforts in the region began in the late 1990s, and today there are viable elk herds in all three states. The herds have become a tourist attraction for wildlife viewing and hunting.

- » In Kentucky, the Project receives 10 elk tags under our Wildlife Management Area (WMA) agreement in exchange for allowing public access, which are sold to private individuals or guides. The state also has a lottery system through which it awards additional elk tags that may be used on the fund's property. Based on the most recent 2020-2021 estimates, we expect approximately \$204k of direct expenditures and \$416k of total economic benefit are generated by elk hunting on the KY portion of the Ataya property on an annual basis<sup>6</sup>. Additionally in 2022 we assisted the elk herd expansion effort in Kentucky by hosting the KDFWR's relocation, which resulted in six elk being relocated from Cumberland Forest owned property to the Daniel Boone National Forest in McCreary County, Kentucky. In addition to the relocation project, KDFWR also fit 14 elk on Cumberland Forest property with radio collars and released back on site as part of ongoing elk research.
- » Based on the most recent 2019 report from the North Cumberland WMA in Tennessee (in which Ataya represents 23% of the acreage), total annual spending by visitors is approximately \$20 million annually, supporting 505 jobs and total economic impact (indirect and multiplier effects) of \$53.2 million, making it one of the top five WMAs in the state in terms of economic impact. The Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association estimates that 12,000 visitors come to Tennessee each year for elk viewing, and TWRA estimates the economic impact of elk viewing and hunting is \$10.75 million per year in Tennessee.
  - Elk habitat restoration efforts are currently underway on approximately 442 acres of previously mined lands on Ataya in partnership with TWRA and in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Restoration activities in 2022 included invasives species control, woody vegetation removal and revegetation. Extensive planning also took place in 2022 that will lead to additional on the ground improvements in 2023.



Elk viewing platform, Buchanan County, Virginia © Nick Proctor/TNC

- » In Virginia, the Project continues to work with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Southwest Virginia Sportsman, Buchanan County, and the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) to increase quality elk habitat and expand opportunities for public elk viewing on several areas of the Highlands property in Buchanan County. These partners were awarded an Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Pilot grant in the amount of \$2.25 million to implement vegetation management on several large tracts within the Highlands property that aim to improve elk habitat on former mined lands.

The grant also supported the construction of new elk viewing platforms and parking areas, and the payment of an annual lease to the fund for public wildlife viewing, which was completed in 2022 including interpretive signs. This project is being enhanced by TNC's efforts, independent of the fund, to secure an additional 1,100 acres of currently unprotected private land that provides improved connectivity with the Highlands property where Virginia's elk herd currently spends most of the season. The new elk reserve provides exceptional opportunities to view elk and commands outstanding views of the surrounding Highlands property, furthering TNC's support for ecotourism in the area.

<sup>6</sup> Estimates based on Ataya proportion of Kentucky Elk Hunting Unit by acreage, 2020 KDFWR Elk Hunter Survey and economic multiplier for big game hunting in Kentucky from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Trails

On the Highlands property in Virginia, the Project continued operating under an improved license agreement with the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority (Spearhead Trails) that covers 144 miles of publicly accessible trails. These are primarily motorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails and includes the Russell Fork Equestrian Trail that connects the Highlands property to Breaks Interstate Park. The new license agreement more clearly identifies the trail network and sets higher expectations for environmental management, such as provisions for trail closures or additions, infrastructure enhancements, maintenance, and monitoring/oversight. Furthermore, it requires that Spearhead Trails maintain coordination with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management, follow Best Management Practices, and share related annual reports with the Project.

As part of this effort, this past year the Project and Spearhead Trails developed the first Annual Trail Maintenance and Improvement Plan to address problem areas on the trail systems focused initially on environmental impacts. The Project has worked with Spearhead Trails to implement a collection of trail developments near the community of Dante, primarily for non-motorized cycling and hiking trails as well as a new trail expected to open in Summer 2023 to connect the existing Mountain View Trail network to the community of Dante. This work is funded through the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement AMLER (formerly AML Pilot program) program for abandoned mined land remediation and economic development.

On the Tennessee portion of the Ataya property, trail use is granted under the public access conservation easement that was conveyed to the State of Tennessee in December 2021. In June of 2022 TWRA, with input from partners, completed a Public Recreation Management Plan (PRMP) that guides the public's use of the CF Ataya property for recreation. The property's first-ever comprehensive plan for OHV use is part of the PRMP as well as guidelines for other recreation, such as hunting, fishing, and hiking. The PRMP includes an updated OHV trail map; new signage was added to the property, and several trails have been closed. We completed the inventory of trails in Tennessee in 2022, which resulted in a recommendation of 96 miles to be open for public use and identified on TWRA trail maps, which was incorporated into the PRMP, and 17 miles recommended for closure. To build goodwill and partnerships with the local OHV clubs, two highly successful and well-attended volunteer cleanups were held, and educational materials for OHV safety and environmental awareness were developed and are being distributed to OHV trail users.

In addition, TNC received funding from both TWRA and the Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative to improve OHV trail conditions and lessen their impact on the environment. This included more than \$115,000 in 2022 to improve or construct over 5.5 miles of OHV trails, increasing the safety of the trails while at the same time reducing any negative environmental impact in sensitive, high conservation value streams and riparian habitats.



Flag Rock Area Trails, near Norton, Virginia © Travis Dove

# COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Due to the ownership structure common in the Central Appalachians, the Project owns the surface estates of the Ataya and Highlands properties, while unrelated third parties retain ownership of the subsurface mineral rights on both properties. As stipulated by the property deeds, mining royalties are paid to the surface owners on a periodic basis. The Project has committed to redirecting 100% of these royalties into project grants supporting local community economic development.

In 2022, the Project continued our relationships with three local organizations:

» **Virginia:** The University of Virginia's College at Wise (UVA-Wise) Office of Economic Development and Engagement (Virginia)—As the only four-year public university in Virginia's coalfield region, UVA-Wise is committed to improving the quality of life and economic vitality of Southwest Virginia. The Office of Economic Development and Engagement connects the university's faculty, staff, students, and resources to economic, professional, and leadership development opportunities in local communities. UVA-Wise issued

their first community grant solicitation in 2021, selecting 10 projects for an aggregate \$100,000 in awards. In 2022 six of the approved projects completed their work, including the hiring of a new executive director for the Clinch River Valley Initiative, Appalshop completed their Pound River access point, and the Breaks Interstate Park improved rock climbing access. During the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022 we began planning for a second solicitation of proposals for the Cumberland Forest—UVA Wise partnership for early 2023.



Clinch River as seen from the Clinch Riverwalk on Sugar Hill property in St. Paul, Virginia © Travis Dove



From top: New Elk Viewing Tower CPRCD © Ronald Lambert/TNC; Pennington Gap, outdoor classroom © Ronald Lambert/TNC

» **Tennessee:** The Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation and Development Council (CPRCD) is a 501(c)3 non-profit sustainable community development organization focused on providing direct investments, financial education, counseling and housing solutions to individuals and small businesses in the region. The CPRCD issued their first community grant solicitation in 2021 and funded 6 projects for a combined \$92,000 in awards. Five of the projects have been completed, including the Campbell County Chamber of Commerce’s effort to build an ADA-compliant elk viewing tower, and Riverside Rentals’ project to plant vegetation to prevent riverbank erosion and infrastructure improvements to enhance public river access. Planning began in the fourth quarter of 2022 to issue a solicitation for a second round of funding for the Cumberland Forest—CPRCD partnership in 2023.

» **Kentucky:** We engaged with the Mountain Association in 2022 to install one community solar installation project on the Middlesboro Community Center that will deliver long-term cost savings while also reducing carbon emissions and providing an outreach opportunity within Kentucky about the benefits and feasibility of clean energy. The Middlesboro Community Center project has served as an engagement point with the past Mayor of Middlesboro and the newly elected Mayor of Middlesboro, strengthening the relationships between the Cumberland Forest team on the ground and the local community. The Mountain Association serves Eastern Kentucky by investing in the people and places to advance the transition to a new economy that is more diverse, sustainable, equitable and resilient. Together we have evaluated more than a dozen potential projects and will fund two additional projects in 2023.

» Mineral rights holders have reduced their coal and gas extraction activities during the past three years, which in turn has limited Cumberland Forest’s contributions to the Community Fund. Recognizing the important and tangible benefits of this funding to local businesses and communities to date, TNC has worked to secure more than \$200,000 in independent philanthropic contributions that will more than triple the total amount of funding to date directed to the Community Fund.



# OUTREACH

Cumberland Forest’s impact and influence continues to be felt beyond our project boundaries in 2022. Our project was featured in several key media outlets, and we hosted numerous groups interested in learning from our unique approach.

- » Jen Morris, The Nature Conservancy’s CEO, and Jill Tiefenthaler, National Geographic’s CEO held an event to celebrate Cumberland Forest’s inclusion in the [September cover story](#) on the need to radically rethink how we conserve nature.
- » *The Washington Post* published a 7 minute “mini-documentary” about the Cumberland Forest Project’s collaboration with solar companies to develop some of the first utility-scale solar projects on former surface mines in the coalfields of Southwest Virginia.
- » These solar projects were highlighted in an [Op Ed by the Roanoke Times](#) editors in December.
- » The Cumberland Forest Project was prominently featured in the Summer 2022 edition of the Nature Conservancy Magazine.
- » Cumberland Forest hosted The Nature Conservancy’s Global Board of Directors in September for a tour of the property and discussion of our approach.

- » Kentucky and Virginia both held Chapter trustee meetings that focused on Cumberland Forest in 2022
- » We hosted several volunteer groups and student groups in 2022. These ranged from Beam Suntory employees planting trees on previously mined sites and University of Kentucky forestry students visiting active forest management sites.



Features on the project in *Nature Conservancy Magazine* and *National Geographic*



## Your gifts mean more nature saved.

As a Conservation Champion, you can be a hero for nature. A recurring gift helps ensure we're always ready to take action — when and where it's needed most.



**SCAN** to learn about the impact you can make as a Conservation Champion



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## worldview

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION NEWS, SCIENCE AND INSPIRATION



### Superior Forest

NEAR THE SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR in Michigan's Upper Peninsula lies a 10,000-acre expanse of native woodlands, beloved for their scenic vistas and home to wolves, moose and bears. This forest has been protected since purchased by The Nature Conservancy last November. It's diverse mix of trees will be conservably managed, ensuring that it continues to sequester carbon and support wildlife while also providing wood products to support the local economy. "Opportunities to manage land are a challenge for us here in Michigan. This is a chance to maintain a large-scale, healthy, resilient forest while addressing one of our biggest global threats—climate change and biodiversity loss." —KATE RUTHER VITICH

UNDESIRABLE WILDLIFE The cool, moist climate of Michigan's Upper Peninsula support an explosion of flowering tribulus.

NATURE.ORG/MAGAZINE 9

# APPENDIX: GLOBAL IMPACT METRIC INDICATORS

The Project tracks or will track several metrics that align with globally recognized impact reporting standards. The table below details progress against relevant metrics identified by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formulated by the United Nations General Assembly, as well as select metrics defined by the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) Impact Reporting and Investment Standards (IRIS). Generally, the Project’s strategy and operations support the following SDGs:



**TABLE 2.** Standardized Impact Metrics

		Year Ended December 31, 2022
<b>SDGs</b>	Forest area as a proportion of total land area	82%
	Sustainable forest management	100%
	Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity (acres)	3,724
<b>GIIN IRIS</b>	Area of Land Deforested (acres)	0
	Area of Land Reforested (acres)	110
	Area of Trees Planted: Native Species (acres)	110
	Area of Trees Planted: Total (acres)	110
	Area of Natural Regeneration (acres, cumulative)	3,074
	Charitable Donations (dollars, via Community Economic Development)	\$83,892
	Forest Management Plan	Complete
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Avoided due to Carbon Offsets Sold (tons CO <sub>2</sub> , gross <sup>7</sup> )	189,000
	Length of Streams Restored (miles)	0
	Protected Land Area: Permanent (acres)	65,622
	Units/Volume Sold: Certified sawtimber (MBF, FSC certified)	1,824
	Units/Volume Sold: Certified pulpwood (tons, FSC certified)	23,272

<sup>7</sup> All carbon figures are presented in gross tons, which includes both saleable carbon offsets and carbon offsets deposited into required buffer accounts