

NATURE

TENNESSEE

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© Courtesy/Laurel Creech

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Our work, like wildlife, operates beyond lines on a map.

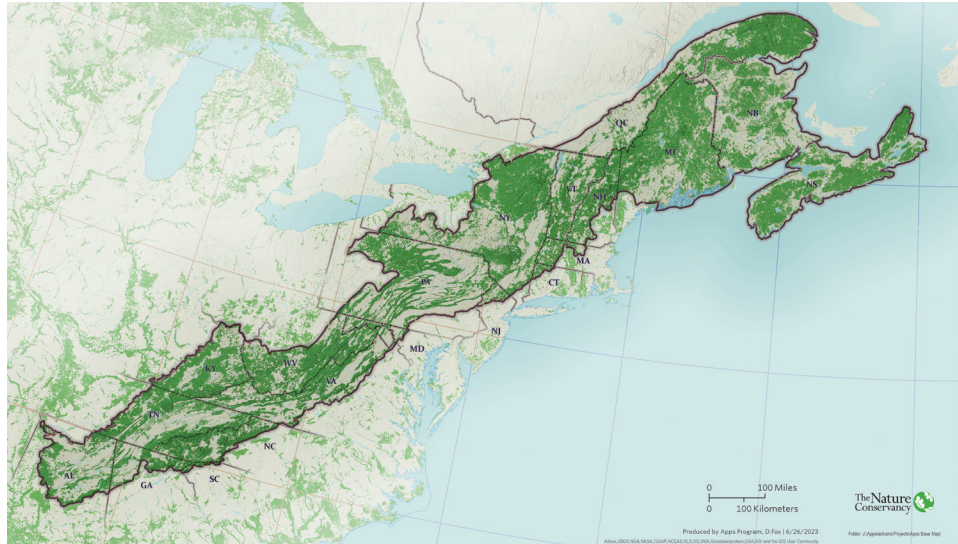
The Nature Conservancy has set ambitious 2030 goals around tackling the dual crises of slowing an alarming loss of our planet's biodiversity and a rapidly changing climate. Achieving our goals requires mobilizing our skills, talents and resources around larger, cross-boundary projects that, if conserved, can have a global impact. We feature two examples of such efforts here. Both sides of our great state of Tennessee touch upon significant landscapes—the Appalachian Mountains to the east and the Mississippi River floodplain to the west, which require our urgent attention. In these places, we are truly greater than the sum of our parts.

Laurel Creech

Laurel Creech
Tennessee State Director

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Visit nature.org/tngiving to support our efforts to conserve larger, globally important landscapes touching in Tennessee.



Appalachian Mountains © The Nature Conservancy

Appalachian Mountains

Supporting wildlife, well-being and local livelihoods in the mountains of Tennessee

The Nature Conservancy is proud to be the only environmental organization with staff living and working throughout the Appalachian Mountains landscape that stretches from Alabama to Canada. As a result, we have the ability to mobilize people based in 17 states into teams focused on tackling the work that is necessary to safeguard this globally valuable landscape for wildlife and people. This includes actions such as acquiring lands and securing clean water to raising money and advocating on Capitol Hill. In Tennessee, TNC's long-established presence in the Cumberland Plateau and Southern Blue Ridge represents a vital link in this iconic mountain chain. Our staff has hit the ground running when it comes to partnering with businesses, governments and local communities to conserve and connect the Appalachians' vast network of forests and streams. This work aims to safeguard wildlife habitat, build resilience to the impacts of climate change, and generate economic and recreation opportunities.



Securing land and water resources in the Appalachians

Together with our TNC colleagues in Kentucky and The Conservation Fund, we acquired the iconic Fern Lake property near Cumberland Gap National Historical Park and the City of Middlesboro, Kentucky. This critical 712-acre parcel is key to supporting wildlife migration and building the landscape's resilience to a changing climate. The property also serves as a primary water resource for the region. It will be added to the National Park Service's portfolio in both states.

Spotlight on Support

The Nature Conservancy is grateful to these and other regional corporations that recognize that a healthy natural environment benefits their business's bottom line.

Sylvamo

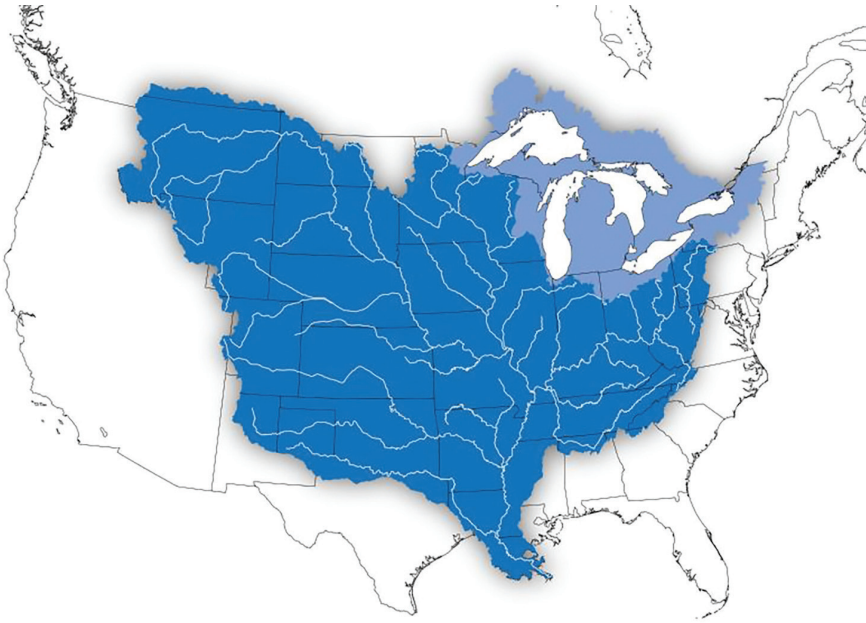
In 2022, Sylvamo committed \$1 million to supporting The Nature Conservancy's efforts to identify, conserve and enhance Appalachian Mountain lands and waters key to building a network of natural highways and neighborhoods where plant and animal species have the best chance of thriving in a changing climate. A portion of this gift is also helping TNC and partners sustainably manage and restore Appalachian forests, and identify opportunities where nature can serve as a solution to healthier lands, waters and communities.



Freshwater mussels © Laurel Creech/TNC

Ingram Barge

Ingram Barge's support for TNC's work in the Mississippi River Basin includes funding that is dedicated to projects focused on improving the health of the region's inland waterways used by the navigation industry. There are a variety of projects under way in western Kentucky and West Tennessee, where TNC and partners are employing nature to help reduce erosion, improve water quality and restore wildlife habitat. Ingram Barge's gift is being used to supplement costs associated with implementing these efforts.



Mississippi River Basin © ArcGIS Storymap

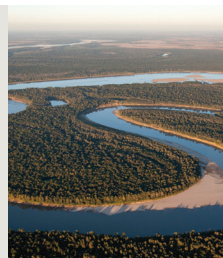
Mississippi River Basin

Supporting wildlife, property, global industry and healthy communities in West Tennessee

The Nature Conservancy is mobilizing around the world's fourth-largest river basin, the "Mighty Mississippi." Stretching from the Allegheny Mountains across to the Rockies and south to the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi River Basin spans 1.2 million square miles that touch in 31 states and two Canadian provinces. Effectively conserving a watershed of this magnitude can be overwhelming, a reason why we are teaming up with partners in both Tennessee and Kentucky to focus on the most critical challenges, namely degraded water quality, flooding and habitat loss along the river, its tributaries and associated floodplains. These impacts pose health hazards to people and wildlife, raise water treatment costs and contribute to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. In response, we are working with farmers, agribusiness, policy makers and others to target science-based solutions that halt and reverse these effects to benefit nature, people and local economies throughout the basin.

Reconnecting Mississippi River floodplains

Last fall, TNC met with the Tennessee Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. about connecting and expanding natural areas in the Hatchie-Loosahatchie portion of the Lower Mississippi River. Years in the making, this project represents a collaborative effort across six states to restore an area compromised by levees and other alterations so that the landscape can naturally filter and control the seasonal flows of these waters.



The Mississippi River © Rory Doyle