



**TRUST FOR
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LAND™**

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

Outdoor Recreation From the Ground Up

J.T. Horn, Tamar Renaud





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About Us

We create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

Photo: Andy Richter



OUR IMPACT ACROSS THE COUNTRY

5,500+

Public outdoor spaces created
or protected

\$112+ Billion

Secured in public funding.

409

Community schoolyards created or in
progress in

26

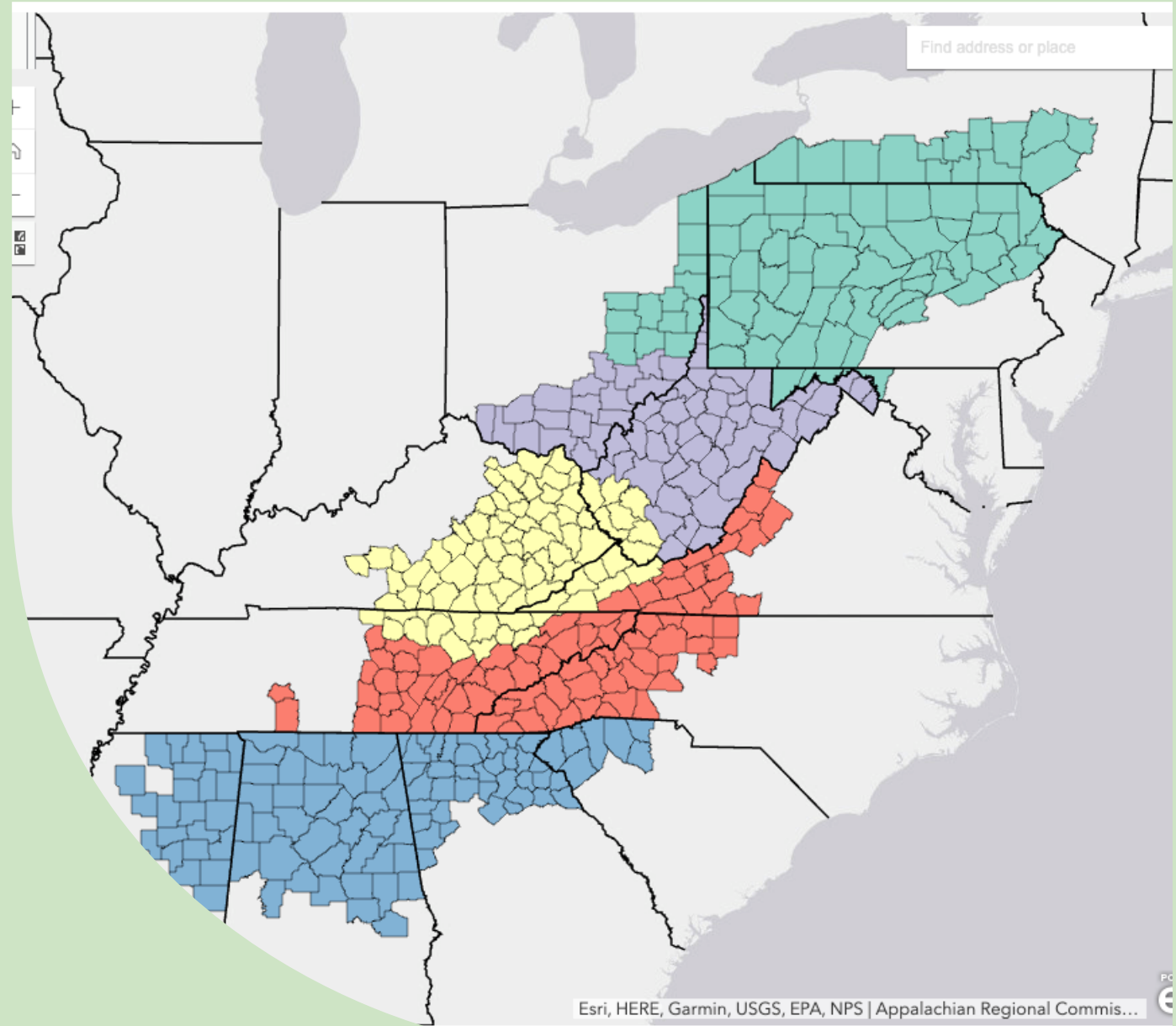
States & Washington D.C.

4+ Million Acres

Protected from development.

Appalachia United Outdoors

- Leveraging a community of partners working within the region
- Capitalizing on the power of the outdoors to improve economic vitality, community connection, and health outcomes
- A five-phase strategy including:
 - Mapping analysis
 - Technical assistance work
 - Project implementation



Source: <https://www.arc.gov/about-the-appalachian-region/>

Examples AUO Project Implementation

Community Forests

- Provide employment and economic development opportunities
- Attract visitors and outdoor rec opportunities
- Protect vital water supplies & wildlife habitat
- Demonstrate good forest management + forest/non-forest products



Regional Trails

Regional Trails improve destination tourism and resident quality of life

- Protection & Adaptive re-use of irreplaceable linear corridors
- Connect towns & business districts to tourist destinations



Resilient Infrastructure

- Public Lands that buffer communities from climate impacts
- Integrate recreation access, floodplain protection, restoration, and holistic community investments





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Community Forests



Defining Community Forests

What makes a community forest different than other forms of conservation land?

1. Community ownership

Municipal or county ownership, land trust NGO ownership

2. Community participation in management

Stakeholder committees, governmental commissions, facilitated public meetings, town votes, etc.

3. Benefits flow back to the community

Community benefits tied to community priorities: economic (timber or drinking water), social (recreational access or outdoor education), ecological (wildlife corridors or wetlands)

4. Permanent protection

Conservation easement, deed restrictions, or grant agreements



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Bethel Community Forest, ME





Community Forest Funding

- US Forest Service – Community Forest Program
- NY DEC Community Forest Grant
- US Forest Service – Forest Legacy Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Municipal borrowing against future timber harvest or carbon revenue
- Private fundraising campaigns:
 - Conservation donors
 - Community donors



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Trails & Greenways: Legacy Trail, FL





Trails & Greenways

- Hard surface greenways drive tourism
- Improved health
- Improved bike/ped safety

Railroad Acquisitions:

- Railroads are notoriously difficult
- Due diligence is more complex (appraisal, title, environmental)



Trail Funding

Recreation Funding or Transportation Funding?

Right-of-Way Acquisition

- NYDOT
- Municipal/County funding

Design and Construction

- Transportation Alternatives Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Congressionally Directed Spending requests
- Private philanthropy



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Mountain Biking



TPL Economic Benefits of Mountain Biking Report



Economic Benefits of Mountain Biking



- Average mountain biker spends \$416 per visit
- Mountain bikers travel long distances for destination riding
- Professional trail design leads to higher quality riding and less impact on land
- Car-free experiences (ride from lodging to trail to restaurant)
- Tips to integrate trails with tourism planning, workforce housing and emergency services
- www.tpl.org/resource/econmountainbiking



Millstone Trails & Barre Town Forest, VT

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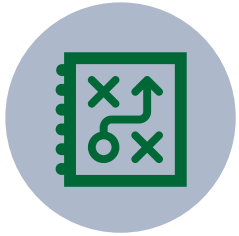
Mountain Biking Trail Development

- Start with a Trail Master Plan – led by a professional
- Consider connections to businesses and schools
- Robust community input
- Cost estimate & permitting requirements
- Fundraising campaign (public and private)
- Construction (in phases)
- Professional build (mechanized) or volunteer build (trail clubs)
- Plan for stewardship (volunteer skills workshops, endowments)

We Plan to Deliver Two Technical Assistance Programs



Community of Practice: A virtual learning cohort that brings together practitioners from across the region to learn, share, and build connections.



Appalachia United Outdoors Accelerator: Direct support provided by TPL that helps communities advance local projects through convenings, research and analysis, and casemaking materials.



SCAN ME

Communities of Practice: Focus Areas for 2026-2027

1

Fall 2026: Implementing Your Outdoor Recreation Vision & Plan

2

Spring 2027: Implementing Your Outdoor Recreation Project

Accelerator: Focus Areas for 2026-2027

1

Planning an Outdoor Recreation Project

2

Making the Case for an Outdoor Recreation Project



Contact Us

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SHARK TANK *Your idea. Your community. 90 seconds.*

THE PITCH *(you, 90 seconds)*

1. What's your outdoor recreation idea?
2. Why does it matter to your community?
3. What's your biggest barrier?

Rules:

- 90 seconds flat. We will cut you off kindly.
- No idea is too small. A trailhead, a kayak launch, a town green.
- No need to have it figured out. Half-baked is fine. That's what the Tank is for.
- Audience: if you've faced the same barrier, raise your hand.