

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY®

CONSERVANCY

IMPACT REPORT





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APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY



pandemic. Social, cultural, and economic upheaval. Political fragmentation. Wars overseas. These were the defining events of the years preceding 1921, when the vision of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) was put to paper by Benton MacKaye. But these are also the events that defined 2020. We found ourselves in 2020, like MacKaye found himself in 1921, turning to the Appalachian Mountains seeking solutions to the "problem of living."

For almost 100 years, the Trail — and its landscape — has been a place to seek solace and inspiration, to find beauty and optimism, to turn inward and reflect, and to look outward and find ourselves part of a larger ecosystem. These benefits and values are embedded in the Trail's resilience. The resiliency of its resources, its experiences, and its legacy.

But this resiliency is not incidental — it's intentional. You have invested in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) to ensure the A.T. is managed, protected, and advocated for forever, for all.

2020 was arguably one of the most challenging years on record. But we weathered several mighty storms because of you and even celebrated tremendous achievements in the core areas of our work: protecting the A.T. and the A.T. experience, advancing the largest landscape conservation efforts in the eastern United States, and educating the next generation of conservationists and Trail advocates. You strengthen our resiliency and ability to withstand hardship, across the Appalachian landscape and beyond.



ATC donors represent every state in our country and even extend internationally. We span a multitude of perspectives, backgrounds, political philosophies, cultures, and religious beliefs. What unites us is that we find, in the A.T., solutions to the problems we see all around us. Wherever you are reading this, thank you for bringing the spirit of the A.T. into your own home and community.

And, as always, thank you for your support and for the love you express, in so many ways, for the Appalachian Trail.

Sandra Marra / President & CEO

Sul!



"THE TRAIL IS ONE OF THE GREATEST TESTAMENTS TO VOLUNTEERISM IN THE NATION."

Appalachian National Scenic Trail Foundation Document, National Park Service



Photo by Horizonline F

2020: A.T.'S BUSIEST YEAR ON RECORD

• n 2020, a record number of people visited the A.T. As the most famous hiking trail in the world, located within a day's drive from every major city in the eastern United States, we have always been a well-loved resource.

But 2020 marked a turning point for the A.T. Staggering numbers of visitors of all ages and backgrounds traveled far and wide to seek solace along the Trail as the global pandemic raged on.

The ATC was honored to receive and welcome so many new visitors, some of whom had their first experiences on the A.T. this year. Many were so inspired by their time along the A.T. that they signed up for our educational programs, became volunteers, and even supported the ATC for the first time to help care for the resource we all cherish. For those of you who are new to the ATC, we welcome you warmly.



A SAFE A.T. EXPERIENCE AT SCALE

Keeping nearly 2,200 miles of trail safe and accessible during our busiest year on record took many passionate and committed people coming together. The ATC extends our most heartfelt thanks to the 3,562 people who donated 111,5656 hours of their time to keep the A.T. safe for all during such an unprecedented year. These individuals:

- Removed blowdowns that fell across the footpath.
- Cleared waterbars.
- Cut back annual growth.
- · Picked up high volumes of litter.
- Removed graffiti from many sections of the Trail, including iconic viewpoints.

The ATC believes in leading by example. When new visitors experience an exceptionally well-maintained Trail, they are more inclined to follow our example and help to do their part to keep the A.T. safe as well.

Through your support, in 2020 the ATC was able to provide funding to our closest partners, the 31 Trail Clubs who work tirelessly to ensure that the A.T. remains safe and accessible for all. A very special thank you to our donors who proudly serve as volunteers and who made the following projects possible:

- Supporting the A.T. Community of Cheshire, Massachusetts, and the development of a seasonal in-town camping area for hikers that includes free bicycles for individuals to use around town.
- Preserving the historically agricultural character of the Trail in the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania through field mowing.
- Replacing old privies in Maine and Pennsylvania with new, above-ground moldering privies that are more sanitary and easier to maintain.
- Spot-replacing severely deteriorated decking on the boardwalk between Lake Wallkill Road and the Wallkill Wildlife Refuge in northwestern New Jersey.
- Providing necessary tools for on-the-ground Trail maintenance work, including tools that are used to address unique challenges in remote area.



BEAR CANNISTER LENDING PROGRAM

The ATC recommends hikers use bear canisters to store food when overnighting in the backcountry, but we also recognize bear canisters can be expensive. In 2020, we began laying the groundwork for a bear canister lending program that is currently available in Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. This free lending program, held in partnership with the Green Mountain Club, makes renting a bear canister simple for A.T. hikers.

Special thanks to BearVault for supporting our bear canister education efforts.



VOLUNTEERS COMPLETE NEW BUILDING AT KONNAROCK BASE CAMP

Among our 3,562 volunteers, 23 volunteers rotated in and out across the span of three weeks to build a new cabin at Konnarock Base Camp in southern Virginia. This effort totaled 870 volunteer hours alone. Also known as a "pod," this cabin will house crew leaders and participants, and is an important component (and perk!) of life at Base Camp.

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A.T. MAINTAINING CLUBS

New England Region

Maine Appalachian Trail Club

Appalachian Mountain Club

Randolph Mountain Club

Dartmouth Outing Club

Green Mountain Club

Appalachian Mountain Club Western Massachusetts

Appalachian Mountain Club Connecticut Chapter

Mid-Atlantic Region

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

Wilmington Trail Club

Batona Hiking Club

Appalachian Mountain Club Delaware Valley Chapter

Keystone Trails Association

Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club

Allentown Hiking Club

Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club

York Hiking Club

Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club

Mountain Club of Maryland

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

Virginia

Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club

Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club

Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech

Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club

Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers

Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club

Southern Region

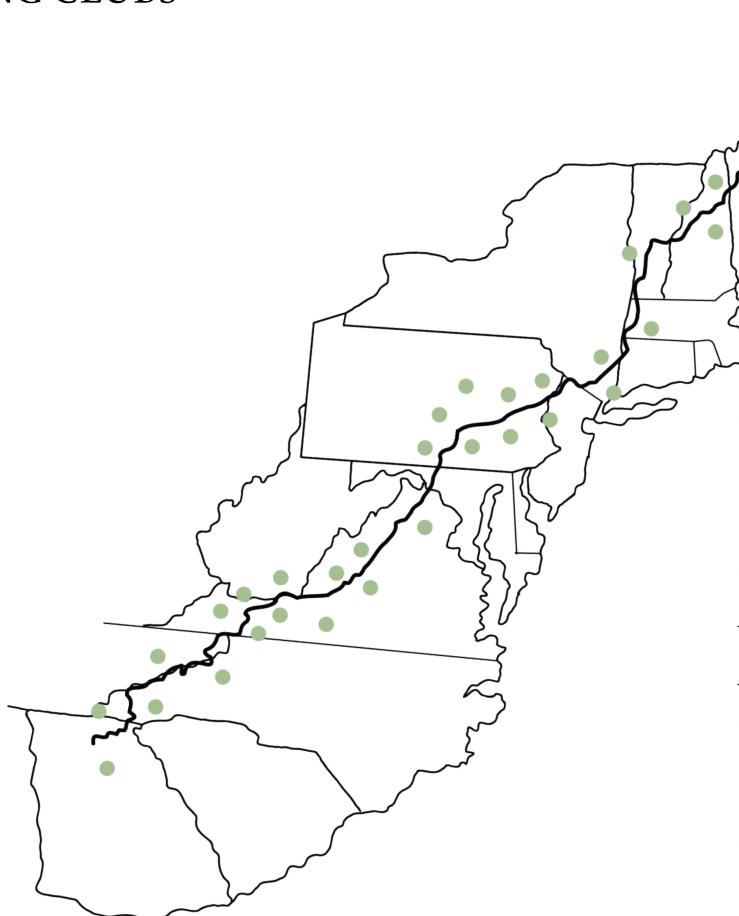
 $\label{thm:constraint} \mbox{Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club}$

Carolina Mountain Club

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

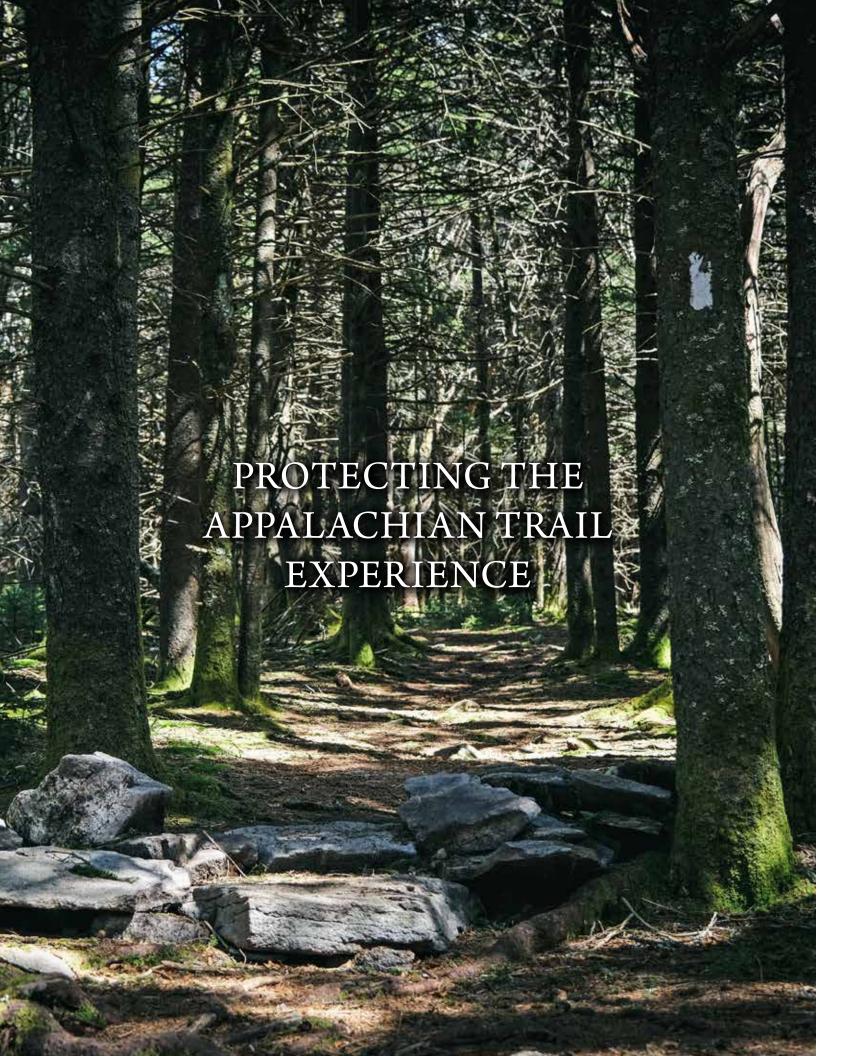
Nantahala Hiking Club

Georgia Appalachian Trail Club



THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL
CONSERVANCY EXTENDS
ITS MOST HEARTFELT
GRATITUDE TO THE 31
TRAIL MAINTAINING CLUBS
AND THEIR OUTSTANDING
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WHO
WORK TIRELESSLY TO PROTECT
THE A.T. FOR ALL THOSE WHO
CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME
IN 2020 AND IN ALL YEARS, WE
THANK YOU.

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"THE WORLD BECOMES A LITTLE LESS INTERESTING WITH THE LOSS OF EACH SPECIES."

Matt Drury, Resource Management Coordinator



rom the expansive views on upper alpine slopes to lush forests scattered with moss and lichen, the A.T. is intertwined with the diverse natural landscape of the Wild East. As the land around the Trail changes due to human development, your support empowers the ATC to protect each ecosystem, each facing its own unique threats. The 2,190+-mile Trail traverses a wide range of ecosystems. The Conservancy advances species conservation practices grounded in science by gathering data on ecosystems,

partnering with organizations, and working on the ground to restore habitats.



HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2020

PROTECTING HABITAT FOR GOLDEN WINGED WARBLERS

Project Locations: NC, TN, VA

Golden Winged Warblers, a native bird species, have declined by an alarming 98%. We manage and protect the habitat that endangered birds and wildlife depend on.

- In 2020, the ATC managed 470 acres over 46 sites of Golden Winged Warbler habitat in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.
- Our conservation team has improved low quality edge habitat and selectively mowed habitat to prevent woody plants from moving into the grasslands where Golden Winged Warblers dwell.



WARDING OFF INVASIVE SPECIES

Project Locations: MA, VA, VT

The ATC works proactively to identify non-native invasive species that would harm the Appalachian habitat, including Wavyleaf Basketgrass in Northern Virginia and Multiflora Rose in Vermont.

- In 2020, our conservation team managed 138 acres over 21 sites from Georgia to New Hampshire to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- · After five years, the ATC has finished restoration work in Day Mountain Natural Heritage Area in Massachusetts, rescuing Ash Trees which required an urgent intervention.

PROTECTING POLLINATORS

Project Locations: CT

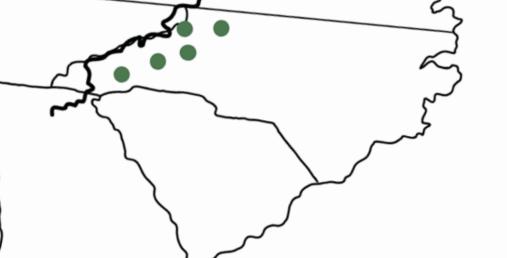
Northern metalmark butterflies are endangered and declining globally. After analyzing their population trends and habitat needs, we worked to restore their habitat to increase the metalmark butterfly population, focusing on sites in Connecticut. Protecting pollinators is crucial to the persistence of plants and healthy habitats.

- Maintained 46 early successional habitat sites that are vital for pollinators migration routes and feeding.
- · Planted wildflowers in early successional habitats to provide nectar and feeding for pollinators.
- · Removed invasive plants that crowd out native plants and alter the composition of pollinator habitats.











Project Locations: MA, NC

The emerald ash borer, an invasive insect that feeds on ash trees, is decimating eastern deciduous forests and threatening the survival of ash trees in the continental United States. We are taking preventative measures to treat ash trees throughout the Wild East, ensuring that strands of ash can survive infestations and live to repopulate the forest.

Our conservation team treated and inventoried over 300 ash trees in North Carolina and Massachusetts.

RESTORING FISH MIGRATION THROUGH **HENDERSON BROOK**

Project Locations: ME

The Maine 100-Mile Wilderness is one of the most valuable, intact, and resilient forest landscapes across the entire Wild East. This iconic Wilderness area provides critical protection to the head waters of the Pleasant River system, a designated habitat for federally endangered Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) and native brook trout (Salvelinus fontinalis).

• Worked to restore migration routes on the Henderson Brook, a tributary to the Pleasant River, by removing a culvert that is blocking fish passage and replacing it with a 50-foot clear span bridge.

RESCUING SPRUCE-FIR FORESTS

Project Locations: NC

Found on the highest and coldest parts of the Southern Blue Ridge, the Southern Appalachian spruce-fir forests are some of the most unique and threatened forests in the United States. As relics from the last ice age, these forests only exist in the cooler climates found at high elevations and form a system of isolated mountaintop islands. The few isolated tracts of spruce-fir forests that remain now face a myriad of threats, from climate change to invasive species.



- Connected 500 acres of disjunct spruce populations
- Grew 2,000 red spruce seedlings for future planting, which will remove 48 tons of CO2 from the atmosphere when fully grown

The ATC mourns the loss of hiker Jean Deeds who, along with family and friends, established the Jean Deeds Spruce Restoration Fund which made this work possible. We thank them for their outstanding generosity in ensuring our forests flourish forever.

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"... A REALM AND NOT MERELY A TRAIL MARKS THE FULL AIM OF OUR EFFORTS."

Benton MacKaye



ll life depends on conserved and connected lands. The ATC oversees the largest landscape conservation effort in the eastern United States. Despite 2020 being one of our most challenging years on record, we were able to make significant advancements in our conservation efforts with the 100+ partners we convene.

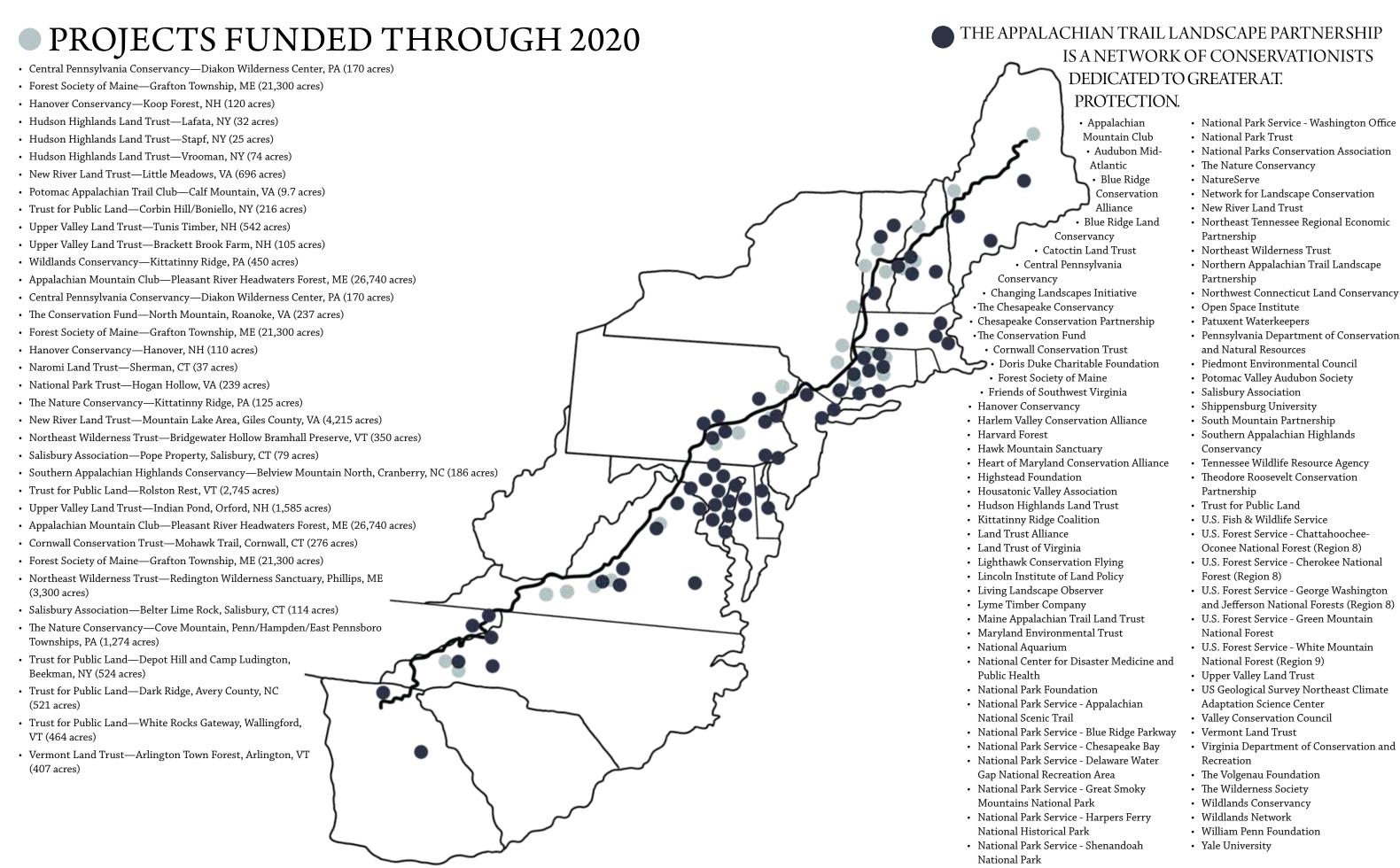
As the pandemic slowed down many aspects of our world, we worked handin-hand with our partners, including land trusts, federal and state agency partners, universities, and representatives of A.T. communities to protect the Trail and its surrounding lands. Through 2020, together we:

- Protected 67,267.7 acres of land.
- Gave \$1.52 million in grants through the Wild East Action Fund. These funds go directly to our partners to protect acres of high-priority land.
- Continued to work in partnership with one another to advance urgent and highly coordinated landscape conservation goals.

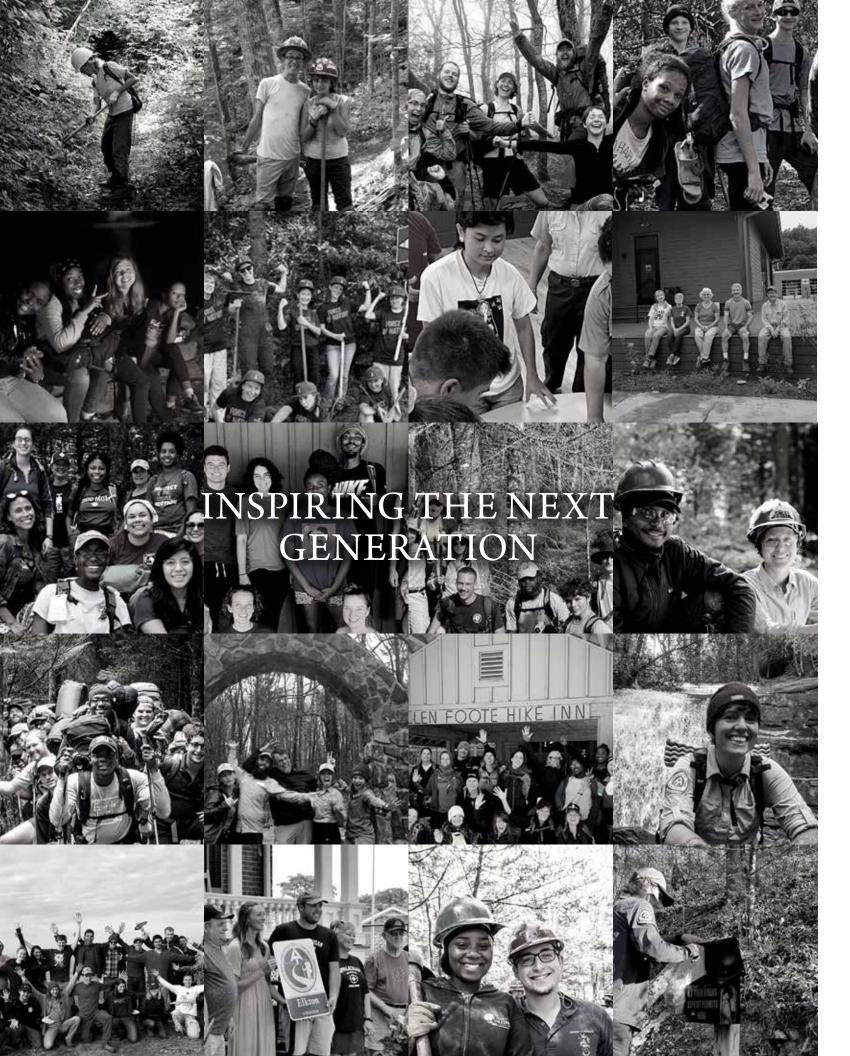
ABOUT THE WILD EAST ACTION FUND

Working alongside our partners, we determine the areas across the A.T. landscape of greatest and most urgent conservation value. Generous private donors, including The Volgenau Foundation, made it possible for the ATC to establish the Wild East Action Fund beginning in 2018. This Fund is dedicated to protecting high-priority land parcels across the A.T. landscape and building capacity in organizations who advance a landscape-scale conservation vision. These lands would not have been protected without a coordinated network of conservation partners working toward a common goal.

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"OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS, MILLIONS OF PASSIONATE AND DEDICATED PEOPLE HAVE CARED FOR THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL AND ITS SPECIAL RESOURCES.

OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE NOW IS TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS ARE PREPARED TO TAKE ON THIS RESPONSIBILITY SO THAT THE TRAIL AND ITS UNIQUE COMMUNITIES AND RESOURCES ARE FOREVER PROTECTED."

Julie Judkins, Director of Education and Outreach

he challenges of 2020 inspired the ATC to think more broadly and creatively about our educational programs and reach. We prioritized two key areas:

Building the Next Generation of Leaders:

- Next Generation Advisory Council (NextGen): Leaders traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of congress and federal agency leaders to advocate for the ATC's conservation initiatives.
- NextGen Forest Ambassadors: Led over 250 hours of stewardship projects in their communities. Their projects ranged from trash pick-up events, podcasts, identification guide, online fundraiser for nonprofits and the creation of original art and music.
- Forest for Every Classroom: The ATC hosted this award-winning program for 21 teachers and ten partners from North Georgia and the Atlanta-metro area, inspiring students to develop a lifelong love of the A.T. and the desire to become the next generation of conservationists and scientists that will care for it.

Digital Education

- A.T. Ed-Venture Series: 15 virtual sessions, engaging over 7,000 viewers on topics that cover every state along the A.T.
- Where We Walk Podcast Series: Created in partnership with REI Co-op, this six-part miniseries explores the women who have helped make the Trail what it is today, as well as those who are shaping its future.
- Hiker Resource Library: Built a comprehensive digital "encyclopedia" on topics including safe use of the A.T., responsible recreation, camping, disposing of waste properly, and gear checklists.



The A.T. Community[™] program recognizes communities that promote and protect the Appalachian Trail. The program serves to assist communities with sustainable economic development through tourism and outdoor recreation while being good friends and neighbors to the Trail.

Dahlonega, GA Greater Waynesboro Area (Waynesboro and Washington Township), PA Union County/Blairsville, GA Delaware Water Gap, PA Hiawassee/Towns County, GA Wind Gap, PA Ellijay/Gilmer County, GA Unicoi County, TN Helen/White County, GA Roan Mountain, TN Clayton/Rabun County, GA Abingdon, VA Cheshire, MA Berryville/Clarke County VA Dalton, MA Bland, VA Great Barrington, MA Buena Vista, VA North Adams, MA Damascus, VA Kingfield, ME Front Royal/Warren County, VA Millinocket, ME

Monson, ME

Rangeley, ME

Harrisonburg, VA

Luray/Page County, VA

Hot Springs, NC

Marion/Smyth County, VA

Narrows, VA

Fontana Dam, NC

Hanover, NH

Gorham, NH

Greater Blairstown Area, NJ

Vernon, NJ

Warwick, NY

Dover & Pawling
(Harlem Valley A.T. Community), NY

Nelson County, VA

Relson County, VA

Round Hill, VA

Troutville, VA

Waynesboro, VA

Norwich, VT

Harpers Ferry, WV

Duncannon, PA

Boiling Springs, PA

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"THE A.T. LANDSCAPE IS THE
LARGEST GREEN SPACE IN THE
EASTERN U.S. FOR NEARLY A
CENTURY, THE ATC HAS PARTNERED
WITH DECISION-MAKERS TO
INCREASE THE SCALE OF LAND
PROTECTION AND TO GUARANTEE
THESE LANDS ARE CONSERVED
FOREVER."

Brendan Mysliwiec, Director of Federal Policy

uring the 116th Congress, the ATC achieved federal policy exposure, engaging in a variety of critical areas. The ATC continues to gain prominence as a national voice for conservation and has made significant strides in furthering policies that advance our vital mission. A top legislative priority for the ATC in 2020, the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act enhanced safety and accessibility of public lands like the A.T. and ensures the legacy of outdoor spaces and experiences passes on to the next generation.

GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

- The Act provided full, permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and creates a Restoration Fund to address the deferred maintenance needs of federal public lands.
- The funding for LWCF doubles what was available in 2019 for states, municipalities
 and the federal government to conserve land for recreation and wildlife habitats.
 The Trail as we know it would not exist without the support of the LWCF, which has
 protected places like Blood Mountain in Georgia, the Roan Highlands of Tennessee
 and North Carolina, the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania, and community
 forests throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.
- In addition to landscape preservation, the Act will also provide funding for critical infrastructure projects that will improve experiences for the more than 325 million visitors hosted by National parks every year.
- The ATC engaged several clubs and several Board members in a coordinated advocacy
 effort to garner support for the bill. The ATC's advocacy led to the inclusion of the
 U.S. Forest Service in the Great American Outdoors Act, ensuring support for the
 entirely of the Appalachian Trail.

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ANNUAL FUND LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

CHAMPION \$500,000+ \$100,000 TO \$499,999 LEADER PARTNER \$50,000 TO \$99,999 ADVOCATE \$25,000 TO \$49,999 PROTECTOR \$10,000 TO \$24,999 STEWARD \$5,000 TO \$9,999 SUPPORTER \$1,000 TO \$4,999

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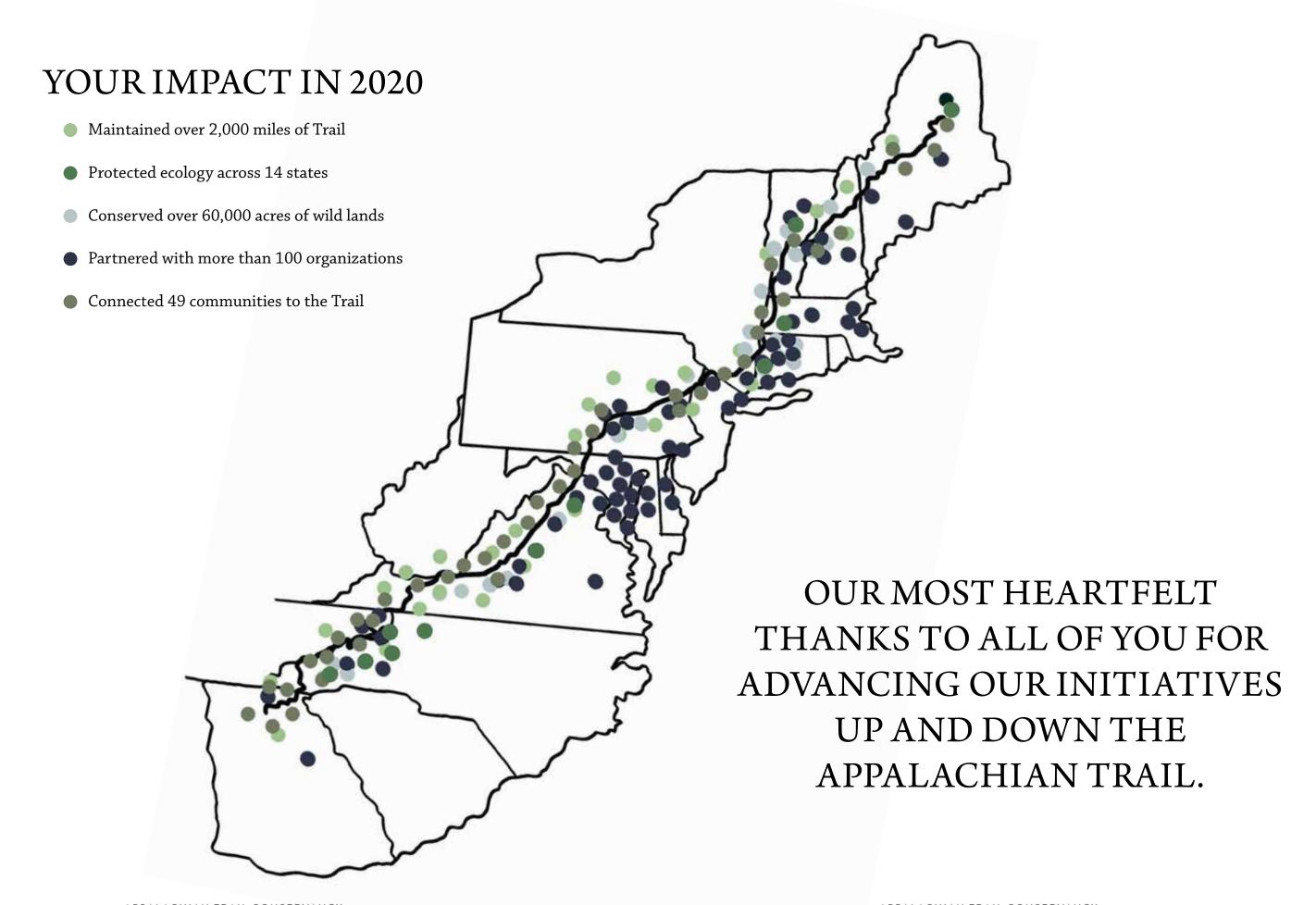
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Bass Pro Shops Devils Backbone

MAINTAINER:

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The ATC strives to recognize all of our incredible donors in accordance with your unique preferences. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time to make any changes to your

Virginia Outdoors Foundation

The Whitehead Foundation, Inc

White Pine Fund

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LEADERSHIP

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NEXT GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

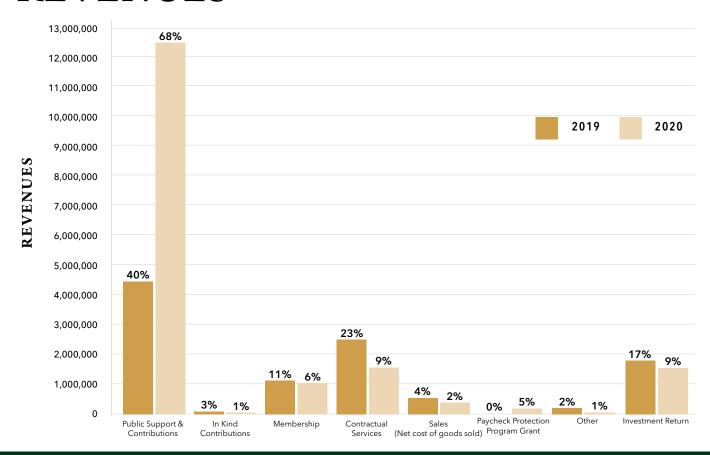
Sahejveer Bhatia Jake Campbell Jolyn Coleman Deidra Goodwin Melissa Guevara Dakota Jackson Brianna Johnson Marcela Maldonado Sophia Mangassarian Natrieifia Miller Caitlin Miller Kristin Murphy Yuri Owens Peter Shultz JT Stokes Aaron Troncoso Lauren Wiggins Jacob Wildfire Michela Williams

APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL CAUCUS MEMBERS

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30 APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY 31

REVENUES

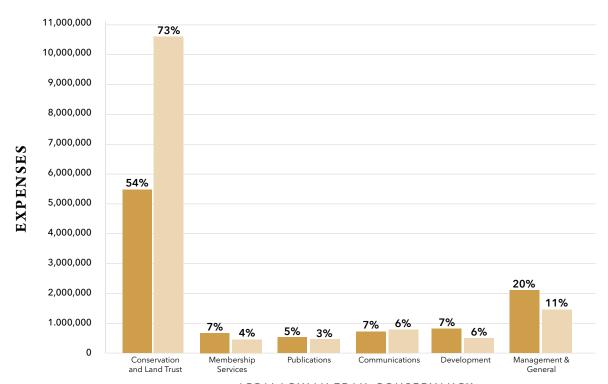












STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	GENERAL FUND	LAND ACQUISITION FUND	MONITORING FUND	DAVID N. STARTZELL STEWARDSHIP FUND	ANNUITY FUND	TOTAL FUNDS				
ASSETS										
CURRENT ASSETS										
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,552,034					\$4,552,034				
Accounts receivable, net	\$6,385,965					\$6,385,965				
Other interfund receivables		\$691,543		\$549,876		\$1,241,419				
Inventory	\$326,285					\$326,285				
Prepaid expenses	\$107,949					\$107,949				
Total current assets	\$11,372,233	\$691,543		\$549,876		\$12,613,652				
NON-CURRENT ASSETS										
Long-term investments		\$931,779	\$258,559	\$12,748,350	\$828,075	\$14,766,763				
Property and equipment, net	\$811,232					\$811,232				
Other assets, deposits	\$7,004					\$7,004				
Land held in conservancy		\$1,632,196				\$1,632,196				
Total non-current assets	\$818,236	\$2,563,975	\$258,559	\$12,748,350	\$828,075	\$17,217,195				
TOTAL ASSETS	\$12,190,469	\$3,255,518	\$258,559	\$13,298,226	\$828,075	\$29,830,847				

	LIABILI	TIES AND	NET ASSE	TS		
	CURRENT LIAE	BILITIES AND D	EFERRED REV	/ENUES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$872,986			\$2,772		\$875,75
Deferred revenues	\$6,992,188					\$6,992,18
Other interfund payables	\$1,231,778		\$9,641			\$1,241,41
Current maturities of annuities payable					\$37,833	\$37,83
Total current liabilities	\$9,096,952		\$9,641	\$2,772	\$37,833	\$9,147,19
	NO	N-CURRENT LI	ABILITIES	'	'	
Annuities payable, less current maturities					\$183,719	\$183,71
Total liabilities and deferred revenues					\$183,719	\$183,71
		NET ASSET	ΓS			
Net assets without donor restrictions	\$1,660,649			\$8,562,521	\$375,307	\$10,598,47
Net assets with donor restrictions	\$1,432,868	\$3,255,518	\$248,918	\$4,732,933	\$231,216	\$9,901,45
Total net assets	\$3,093,517	\$3,255,518	\$248,918	\$13,295,454	\$606,523	\$20,499,93
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$12,190,469	\$3,255,518	\$258,559	\$13,298,226	\$828,075	29,830,84



LOOKING FORWARD

s I write this, we are celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Benton MacKaye's vision for the A.T. The creation of the Trail in and of itself is a remarkable achievement. But even more so, is this idea that millions of people who may never meet one another and who represent every possible background, perspective, political philosophy, and religious affiliation, stand united behind a single purpose.

That this unity has endured for 100 years is because of you and choices you have made. You have shown us that no matter the circumstances — whether a global pandemic, world wars, social and political upheaval, and beyond — the human spirit and desire to make our world a better place is the force that will prevail.

This impact report is yours. It is a chronicle of the achievements you made possible during one of ATC's most challenging years. It is the mark that you have left on the A.T. and on the world. When I think of all we have accomplished over the last century, I think of the challenges we have faced, and those we have overcome. I think of the ways so many people have served this vast and cherished natural resource; of the peaks, the crags, and the crests that comprise the Trail and compel us to return to its expansive beauty as we seek solutions. I think of the ways in which our supporters, partners, and community members have enabled each and every success.

The Trail was built on a strong foundation. Looking forward, I know it has become even stronger because of you. The ATC is humbled by your dedication to the A.T. and honored to have your support. I hope you are very proud of all you have made possible

Sandra Marra / President & CEO.

Sed!



CONTACT US

We would love to hear from you! If you would like to connect, please feel welcome to contact a member of our team.



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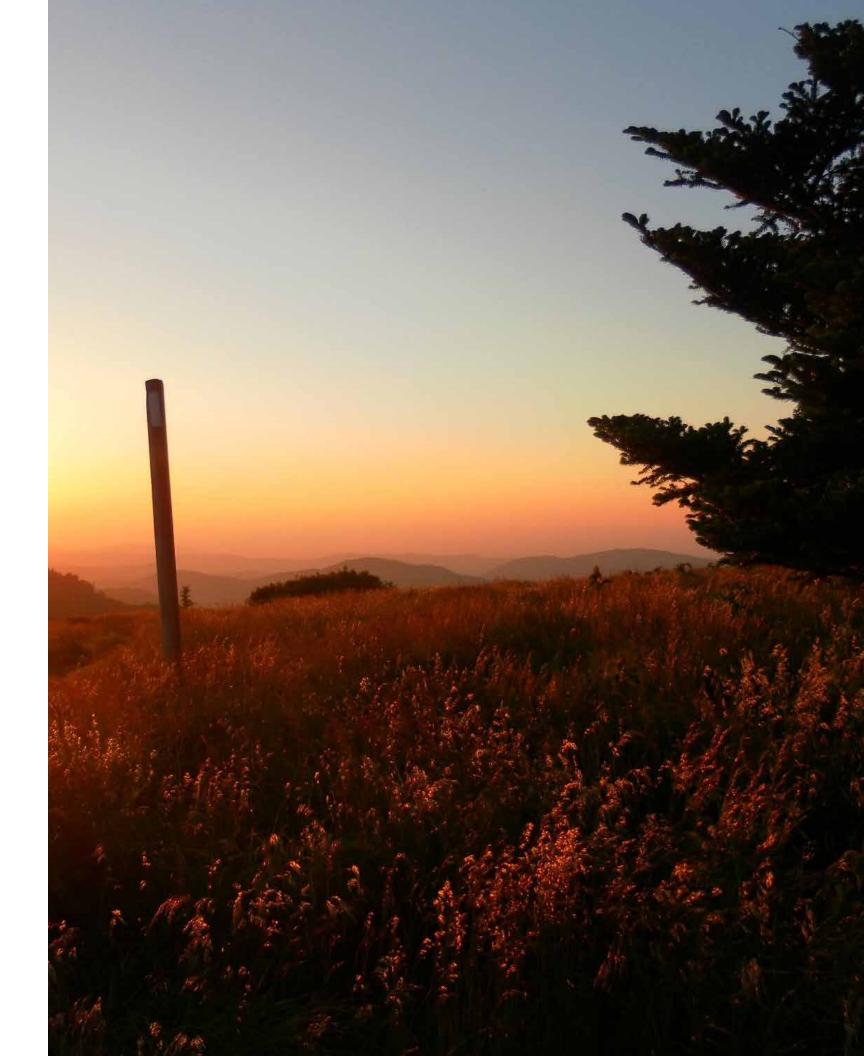
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PHOTO CREDITS

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Page 15Shira Zaid
Page 16
Page 17Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Page 20 - Photo Grid: (left to right, row 1) Work trip with Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club (TEHCC), Photo by Mars Hill of the Konnarock Trail Crew, Photo by Katelyn Bland-Clark of a 2017 SOBO trail family, Next Generation Forest Ambassadors in Georgia, (Row 2) Next Generation Forest Ambassadors in Georgia, Wild East Women's Workday, Everybody's Environment Emerging Leaders Summit, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists at Damascus Trail Center, (row 3) Photo of Next Generation Advisory Council, Everybody's Environment Emerging Leaders Summit, Photo by National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) – North Central Region, Photo by Horizonline Pictures, (row 4) Photo by Horizonline Pictures, Photo by Chloe de Camara of 2020 ATC Georgia and Smokies Ridgerunners, Photo from 2020 Forest For Every Classroom, Photo by Lily Gelfars, 2021 ATC Georgia & Smokies Ridgerunner, (row 5) Photo by Conner McBane of a volunteer workday at Rice Field, Photo by Annie Zimmerman, Communications Coordinator, PATC, Horizonline Pictures, Photo by Chloe de Camara of 2021 ATC Ridgerunner
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