



Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership
2023 Annual Meeting

November 1 | National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

Welcome from the Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership





2023 ATLP Annual Meeting: Partnership Vision & Mission



Our Vision:

The vision of the ATLP is an Appalachian Trail and surrounding landscape that connect people of diverse communities and nature, forever safeguarding the backbone and heart of the Wild East.



Our Mission:

The mission of the ATLP is to connect the wild, scenic, and cultural wonders of the Appalachian Trail and its surrounding landscape.

2023 ATLP Annual Meeting: Partnership Updates

- Partnership Charter
- Coordinating Committee
- Communications Committee & Strategy
- Call for New Steering Committee Members
- Call for Strategic Conservation Committee Members
- Call for Communications Committee Members



ATLP Annual Meeting: Theme

- Ecological
Connectivity in the
Appalachian Trail
Landscape



2023 ATLP Annual Meeting: Meeting Purpose

- Frame the conversation around the Appalachian Trail Landscape as a corridor for ecological connectivity
- Gain a better understanding of federal guidance on connectivity and the impacts and opportunities in the A.T. Landscape
- Learn from federal agencies about their priorities for connectivity and protecting habitat
- Deepen state and federal engagement



2023 ATLP Annual Meeting: Meeting Goals

- Build the framework for an ATLP conservation strategy that's centered on ecological connectivity
- Conduct the groundwork necessary to provide context and direction to the Strategic Conservation Committee



The 4 Goals of ATLP's 2022-2024 Strategic Plan

Goal	Strategy	Tactics				
ACCELERATE STRATEGIC CONSERVATION 	Protect 100,000 acres of priority lands over the next 3 years	ATLP forms a conservation working group	A fundraising goal and strategy is developed for WEAFF	A database is created to catalog data & resources to inform land protection priorities & identify data needs	A strategic conservation framework is developed to inform land protection priorities	ATLP protects 100,000 acres of targeted parcels in 3 years
ACTIVE PARTICIPATION 	Lead efforts to elevate the AT Landscape as an East Coast Climate Corridor	The Climate Advisory Group completes recommendations report by end of 2021	Communication data and messaging products are identified for ATLP			
EQUITABLE LANDSCAPE 	Work with communities to understand their values & needs	A synthesis report is developed on the needs of regional partnerships and local communities	Catalog existing local, state and federal policies that align with ATLP vision & goals			
DIVERSE PARTNERSHIP 	Assess current governance & functions to build a more diverse partnership	Initiate a needs assessment of ATLP's governance structure to sustain function & capacity	Identify JEDI specialists among partners & from external advisors	Develop a strategic engagement strategy to diversify representation & promote equitable and inclusive Partnership functions		

Day 1 Agenda

10:00	Welcome & Introduction to ATLP
10:35	Partner Introductions
11:35	Lunch
12:35	The Intersection of Trail & Ecological Connectivity
2:05	Agency Responses & Actions to Implement Federal Connectivity Guidance
3:20	Break
3:30	Depart for Field Trip to Antietam National Battlefield
6:00	Return to NCTC for Dinner
7:00	Casual Evening Networking in the Commons

Day 2 Snapshot

Morning Reminders & Agenda Review

ATLP Logo Reveal

Action Planning for an Appalachian Trail Landscape Conservation Framework

Break

Co-creating a Roadmap for Connectivity – Geographic Focus

Group Photo & Lunch

Co-Creating a Roadmap for Connectivity – Creating Coherence

Closing Remarks & Next Steps



NCTC Housekeeping

- Checkout Time is at Noon
- Drinks & Snacks During Breaks
- Bathroom Location
- Meal Times
- Getting Around Campus
- Packet Contents
- Breakout Room Sign-up Sheet

Hike the A.T. in Less Than 5 Minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtTmKPqXoZU>





Why is the Appalachian Trail Landscape So Special?

[Protecting Our Large Landscape](#)

Partner Introductions

Find someone with the same sticker on their agenda...

- Answer all of these questions:
 - What's your name?
 - What organization do you represent?
 - Where do you live and work?
- Answer 1 of these questions:
 - What is difficult for you now, but was easy as a child?
 - What is the one thing life is teaching you right now?
 - What is the strangest food you have ever tried?
 - How will you spend your time at the next travel location on your bucket list?
- You have 5 minutes per person



Announcement:

Please collect what you need for the Antietam Field Trip during lunch so we can leave promptly after adjourning from the last session.

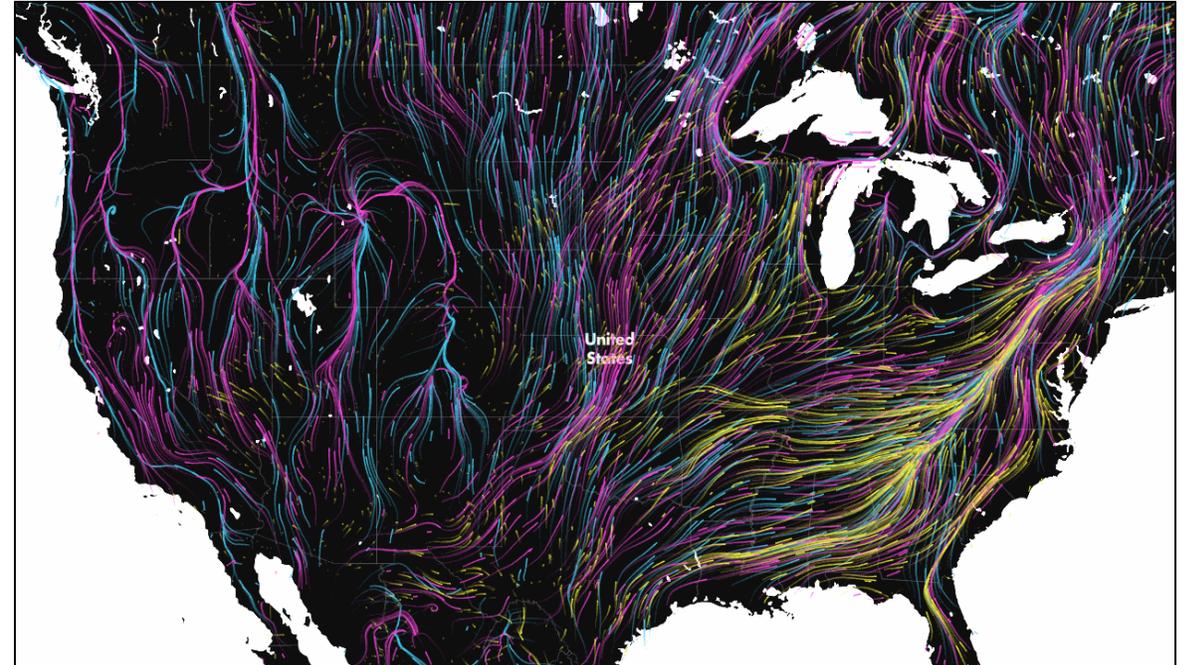


The Intersection of Trails & Ecological Connectivity: Introduction

The A.T. & ATLP are models for other National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails

What's motivating ATLP to focus on connectivity?

- Ongoing biodiversity crisis
- Landcover change trends across the landscape
- Increasing impacts from climate change
- Recent guidance that's amplifying the importance of connectivity





ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Biological Conservation

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/biocon



Enabling a National Program for Ecological Corridors in Canada in support of biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and Indigenous leadership

Karen F. Beazley^{a,*}, Jessica D. Hum^b, Christopher J. Lemieux^c

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Received: 10 November 2022 | Revised: 13 January 2023 | Accepted: 23 January 2023

DOI: 10.1111/gcb.16629

Global Change Biology WILEY

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Protected areas not likely to serve as steppingstones for species undergoing climate-induced range shifts

Sean A. Parks¹ | Lisa M. Holsinger¹ | John T. Abatzoglou² | Caitlin E. Littlefield³ | Katherine A. Zeller¹

Received: 11 October 2018 | Revised: 8 March 2019 | Accepted: 9 March 2019

DOI: 10.1111/csp.2.30

CONTRIBUTED PAPER

Conservation Science and Practice WILEY
A Journal of the Society for Conservation Biology

An assessment of ecological values and conservation gaps in protection beyond the corridor of the Appalachian Trail

Peter S. McKinley¹ | R. Travis Belote² | Gregory H. Aplet³



Article

The Value of Trail Corridors for Bold Conservation Planning

Mel B. Wilson^{1,*} and R. Travis Belote²

The Intersection of Trails & Ecological Connectivity



Travis Belote

Senior Science Director, The Wilderness Society



Christine Drake

Manager of Ecological Corridors & Heritage Rivers, Parks Canada

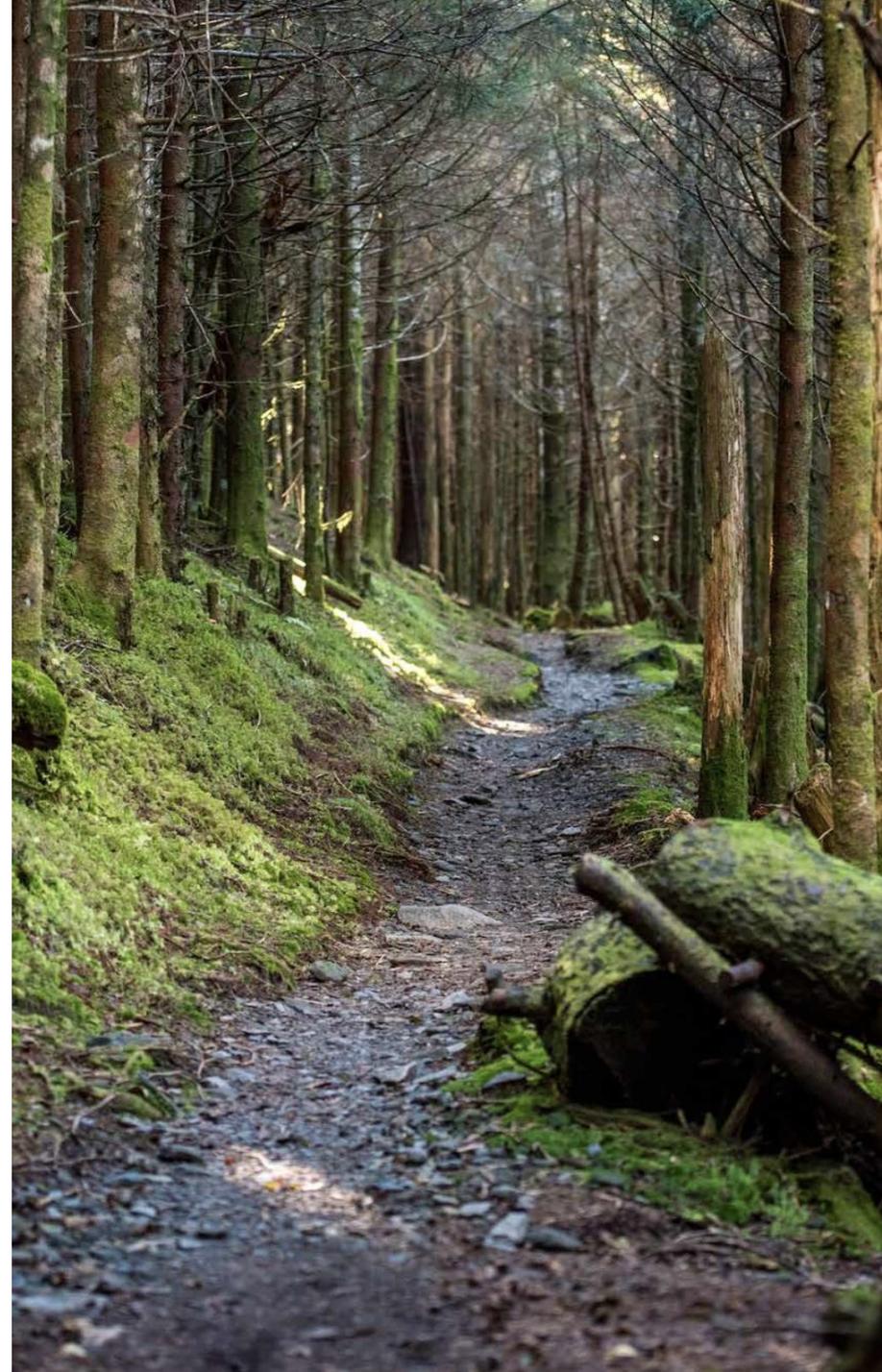
Table Discussion

Table Discussion Topic

- How can we maximize the value of the Appalachian Trail and surrounding Landscape for biodiversity, connectivity and landscape conservation?

Table Discussion Instructions

- Spend 2 minutes gathering your thoughts
- Spend 4 minutes discussing your thoughts with a neighbor at your table
- Spend 15 minutes in discussion with everyone else at your table



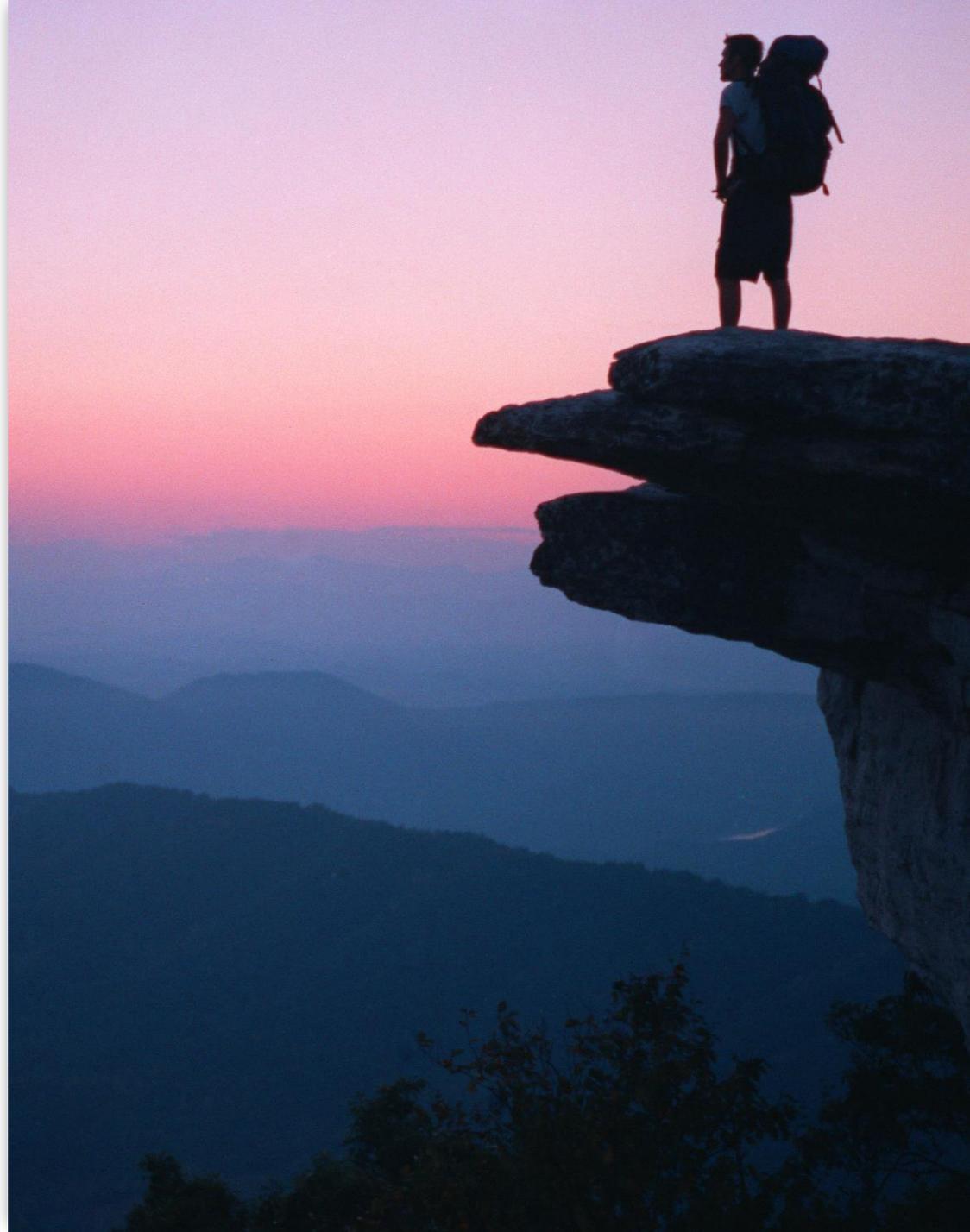
The
Intersection
of Trails &
Ecological
Connectivity:
Plenary
Debrief



Agency Responses & Actions to Implement Federal Connectivity Guidance

Federal Agency Panelists

- Ray Sauvajot, Associate Director of Natural Resource Stewardship, National Park Service
- Brian Logan, National Wildlife Program Leader, USDA Forest Service
- Tim Purinton, Special Assistant to the Deputy Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Agency Responses & Actions to Implement Federal Connectivity Guidance



Please meet at the turnaround out front at
3:30 for our trip to the
Antietam National Battlefield





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November 2 | National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

Day 1 Reflections



Day 2 Agenda

9:00	Announcements & Agenda Review
9:15	ATLP Logo Reveal
9:35	Small Groups: Action Planning for an ATLP Conservation Framework
10:45	Break
11:00	Co-creating a Roadmap for Connectivity – Geographic Focus
12:00	Group Photo on the Way to Lunch
12:15	Lunch
1:00	Co-creating a Roadmap for Connectivity – Creating Coherence
2:30	Closing Remarks & Next Steps
2:45	Adjourn

**~ Introducing ~
ATLP's New Logo**

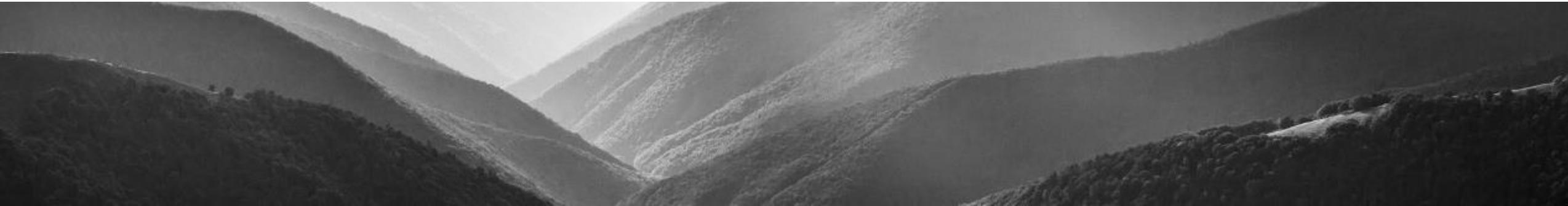


**Appalachian Trail
Landscape
Partnership**

Action Planning for an Appalachian Trail Landscape Conservation Framework

The Goal of the Conservation Framework is to

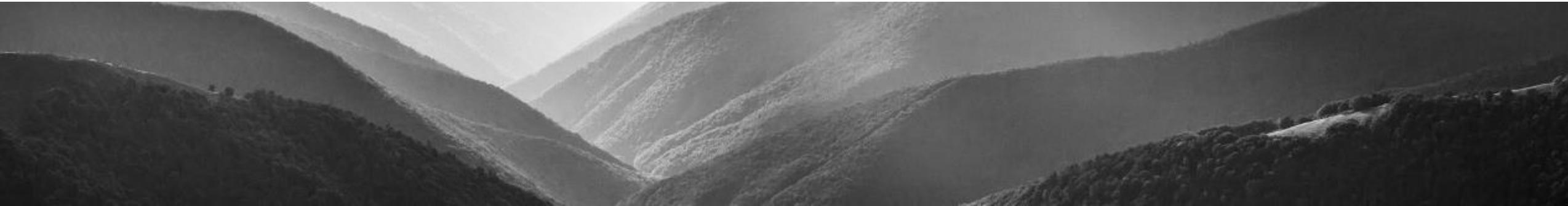
- Move the Partnership towards a **connectivity centered conservation strategy**
- Ensure ATLP's conservation efforts are:
 - inclusive of Appalachian communities,
 - protective of wildlife corridors and
 - ensure ecological connectivity for the sustainable production of ecosystem services.



Action Planning for an Appalachian Trail Landscape Conservation Framework

The purpose of the Breakout Session is to:

- Brainstorm actions the ATLP, partner organizations and state and federal agencies that lead toward a connectivity-centered conservation strategy



Action Planning for an Appalachian Trail Landscape Conservation Framework

There are 10+ people per group. You will have 1 hour for discussion to allow for walking between buildings.

Instructions

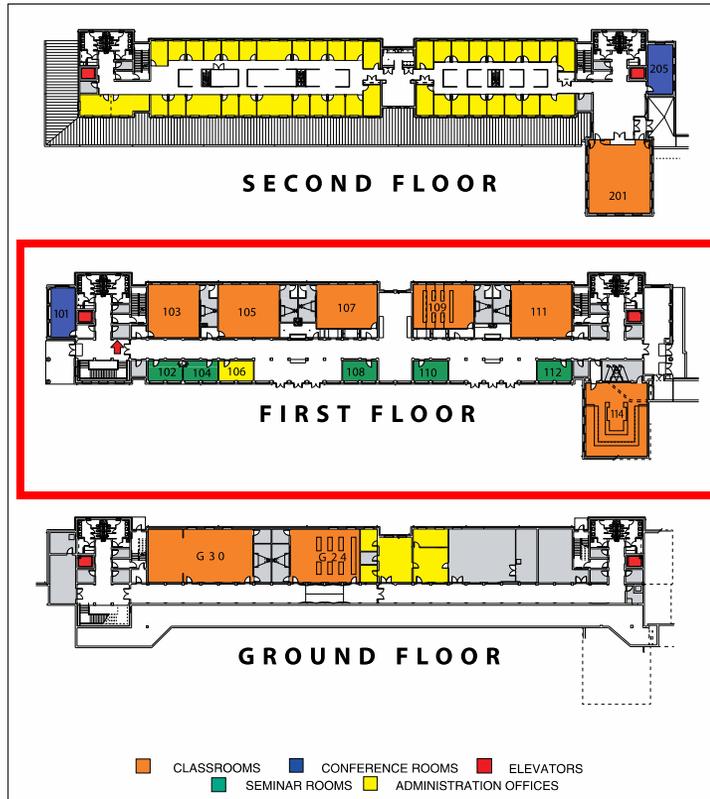
- Each group has a pre-assigned note-taker
- Use the link emailed to you this morning to access the Google Doc with the discussion prompt
- Use the table in the document to capture your groups responses and share during the breakout group reports

We have a break after the breakout session. We'll reconvene in the Gallery at 11:00.

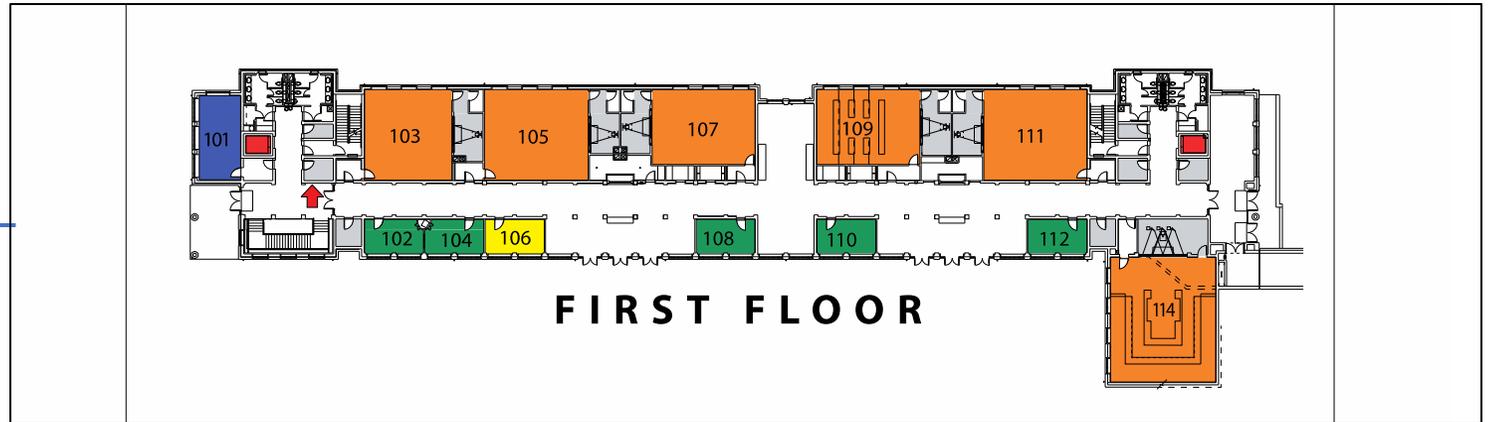


Breakout Room Locations

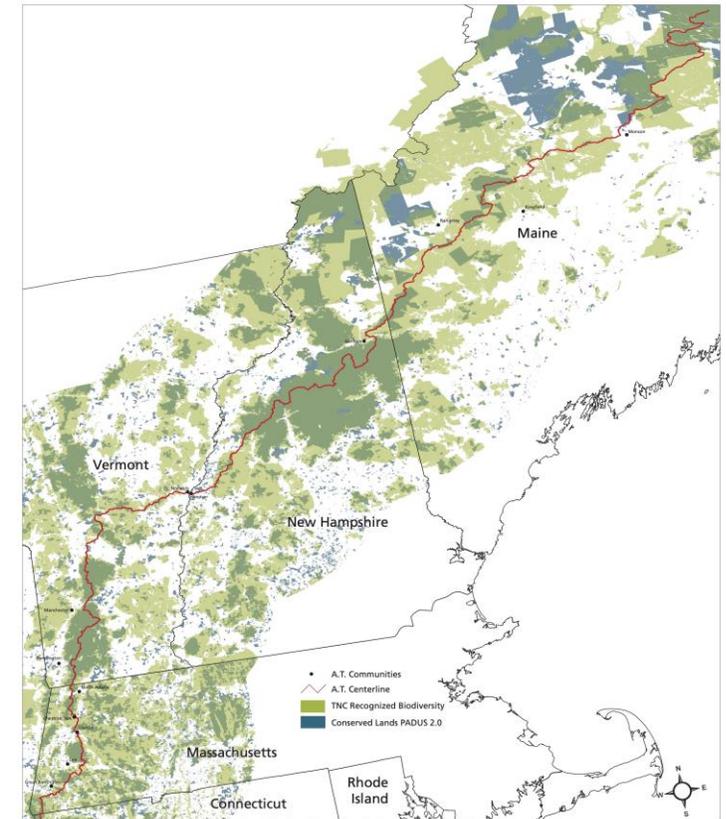
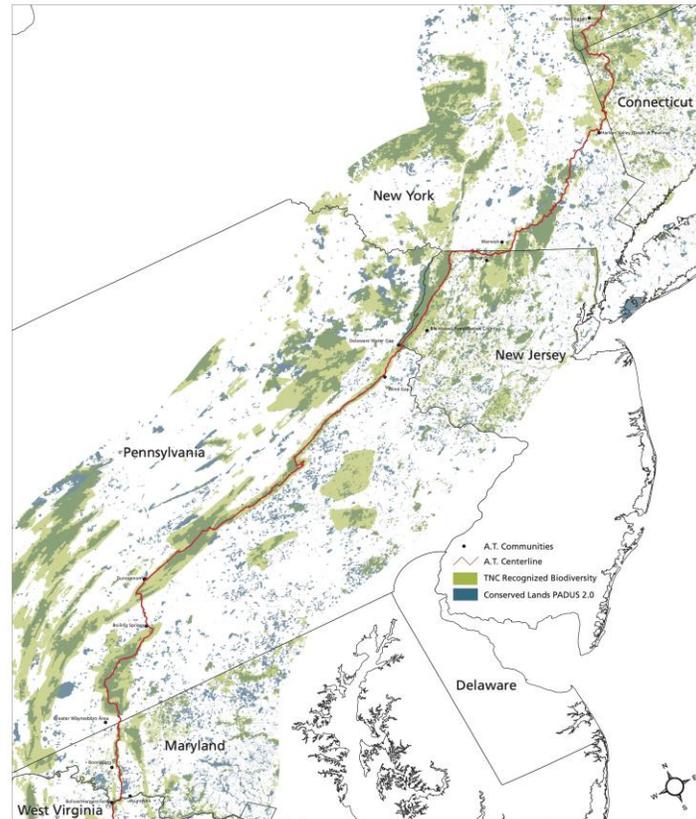
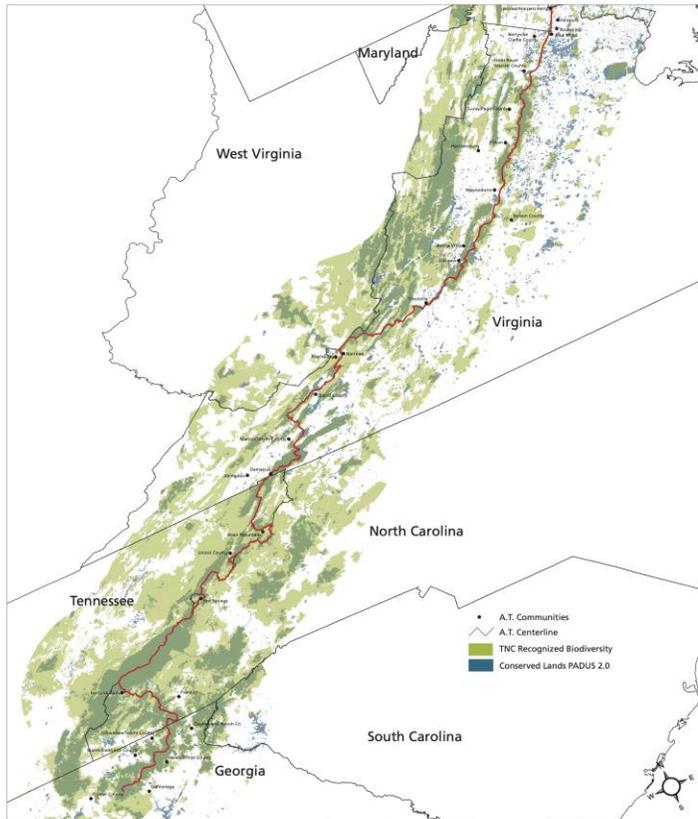
INSTRUCTIONAL EAST



National Conservation Training Center



Co-creating a Roadmap for Connectivity – Geographic Focus



Group Photo on the Way to Lunch

Meet out front on the entrance steps to the Commons



Co-creating a Roadmap for Connectivity – Building Coherence



Closing Reflections

