

## Expanding Warbler Ridge Preserve



Warbler Ridge Preserve

When migrating warblers return to Kentucky in the spring they will have hundreds of acres of newly protected wildlands to call home within Warbler Ridge Preserve. KNLT created its largest preserve in Harlan and Letcher Counties in 2020, connecting biodiverse forests, protecting headwater streams, safeguarding migratory routes, and serving as a key passage for the unfolding Great Eastern Trail.

In 2021 these benefits have grown with each addition to the preserve. This year **KNLT has expanded Warbler Ridge to 2,974 protected acres** by adding two important tracts – and momentum is building to keep it growing before the end of the year. The nearly 500 acres added



Blackburnian Warbler

fill in gaps linking Warbler Ridge to E. Lucy Braun State Nature Preserve, Kentenia State Forest and Pine Mountain Settlement School. **In the coming months, KNLT hopes to further expand Warbler Ridge with the addition of several hundred more acres of wildlands.** &



## Protecting Biodiverse & Climate Resilient Landscapes

## Advancing a Just Transition

Great Eastern Trail - Pine Mountain Section

Across the planet climate change and habitat destruction are disrupting natural systems pushing species to the brink of extinction. The current situation has been called a “code red for humanity”, and there are growing calls for immediate action. Protecting forests is one of the natural climate solutions that can help address this biodiversity and climate crisis.

Kentucky and Central Appalachia are now recognized for their unique forests and landscape. The region is home to one of the most biologically diverse temperate zone forests on Earth harboring plants, animals and natural systems that support all life on the planet. The region’s rugged terrain is climate resilient and better positions the species found there to adapt and persist in the face of climate change.

The mountains of Eastern Kentucky are vital to the region’s natural heritage and sense of place. As Appalachia makes its largest economic shift since the industrial revolution by transitioning away from a carbon-based economy, protected wild places are becoming important assets in their own right. **Wildlands are vital to cultural, human and economic health.**

**KNLT is working to advance a more just, equitable and sustainable future** for communities along the mountain, for the common wealth of all Kentuckians, and for a greater global impact. 🌿



Luna moth

**KNLT addresses the biodiversity and climate crisis through science-driven community-minded conservation.** Our primary focus area, Pine Mountain, is a biodiverse climate resilient forested landscape that absorbs harmful CO2 emission, safeguards habitat for thousands of species and is part of a continental migratory corridor. **Protecting this unique place is a local action with global impact.** 🌿

KNLT’s efforts contribute to the evolving transitional economy by protecting lands that foster outdoor recreation and tourism. Many of our preserves are located along the proposed route of the Great Eastern Trail, an 1,800-mile backcountry-hiking trail that will extend from New York to Alabama. Through collaboration with federal, state, nonprofit and private partners, KNLT is helping map a new future for the region by expanding hiking trails, protecting scenic viewsheds, and stewarding the mountain.



Blanton Forest



Great Eastern Trail - Pine Mountain Section

### Kentucky Natural Lands Trust by the numbers:

**16,000+** acres  
directly purchased  
& protected

**36,500+** acres  
purchased & protected  
with our help

Your support can help keep Kentucky wildlands forever wild, for the plants, animals and people who depend on them today, and for many generations to come. Join KNLT in protecting, connecting and restoring wildlands. Visit [KNLT.org](https://www.knlt.org) to donate and learn more about how you can get involved.

*Together we're making the world  
more wild & wonderful!*

## Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

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