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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kentucky Natural Lands Trust Expands Warbler Ridge to Over 3,000 Acres

Berea, KY January 31, 2021 - Kentucky Natural Lands Trust (KNLT) has been working with a diverse group of landowners along Pine Mountain for decades. Over the last few years, a series of five KNLT acquisitions in Harlan and Letcher counties established the Warbler Ridge Preserve which now protects 3,045 acres of vital forested habitat, headwater streams and links of the unfolding 1,800-mile Great Eastern Trail. At the end of 2021, KNLT partnered with a local couple to secure another 110 acres on the south face of the mountain near Cumberland, KY.

The matrix of conservation lands along Pine Mountain provides critical habitat for thousands of plants and animals while also offering recreational opportunities that are important to local communities and the emerging outdoor recreation economy of the region. KNLT has spent more than 25 years working with landowners, local communities and conservation partners to protect biodiverse and climate resilient landscapes. These collaborative efforts benefit local, regional and global communities. Through public-private partnerships more than 69,500 acres (nearly 40%) of the mountain has been protected.

The power of partnership is foundational to our work and has enabled these conservation successes. We are very grateful for support from individual donors, foundations, and partners. In particular, we would like to thank the James Graham Brown Foundation, the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kentucky Field Office) and the many donors who generously contributed to the Warbler Ridge Expansion Campaign.

In the coming year, KNLT hopes to purchase and protect additional tracts nearby to continue to expand the Warbler Ridge Preserve. Anyone interested in learning how to get involved with this project can sign up for the organization's E-news: [KNLT.org/get-involved/#stayintheknow](https://www.knlt.org/get-involved/#stayintheknow)

About Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

KNLT is a nationally accredited nonprofit working to protect, connect and restore wildlands, large forest tracts and migratory corridors. Efforts began in 1995 with the preservation of Blanton Forest, expanded to the Pine Mountain Wildlands Corridor, and now include a range of conservation projects statewide. KNLT uses a wide variety of tools to conserve natural areas and to work with forest landowners. Through partnerships with government agencies, nonprofits, corporations and private individuals, KNLT has protected more than 52,500 acres of wildlands throughout the Commonwealth. For more information on how you can help KNLT protect wildlands, visit [KNLT.org](https://www.knlt.org).