

Boone's Ridge and Cumberland Trails Conference Improvements

PROJECT SNAPSHOT



GRANTEE

The Appalachian Wildlife Foundation and the Cumberland Trails Conference



STATES IMPACTED

Kentucky and Tennessee



ARC FUNDING

\$9,316,181



PARTNERS

Kentucky Abandoned Mine Lands Pilot Project Grant,*

Just Transition Fund,* and USDA Rural Partners Network



ANNOUNCEMENT DATE

April 2024

STATES IMPACTED

PROJECT SUMMARY

Impacting 12 counties across Appalachian Kentucky and Tennessee, this trail improvement project will develop a wastewater treatment plant and other necessary site preparation infrastructure for Boone's Ridge, a new outdoor recreation and education destination located on former mine land near the Cumberland Gap National Park. Boone's Ridge will be a national tourist attraction spotlighting the wildlife, wild landscapes, art, history, and culture of the region. The project also supports the completion and maintenance of the Cumberland Trail by the Cumberland Trails Conference.

The Appalachian Wildlife Foundation and partners bring a total \$2,330,000 in matching to this project. In addition to building a wastewater treatment plant, project funding will be used to construct a 7,000 sq. ft. plant maintenance building, 3.5 miles of access road, and a 2-mile walking trail during the 24-month performance period. Within three years of its opening, Boone's Ridge is expected to attract 851,900 visitors per year creating an economic impact of \$200 million annually.

^{*} Partner is providing matching funds for project