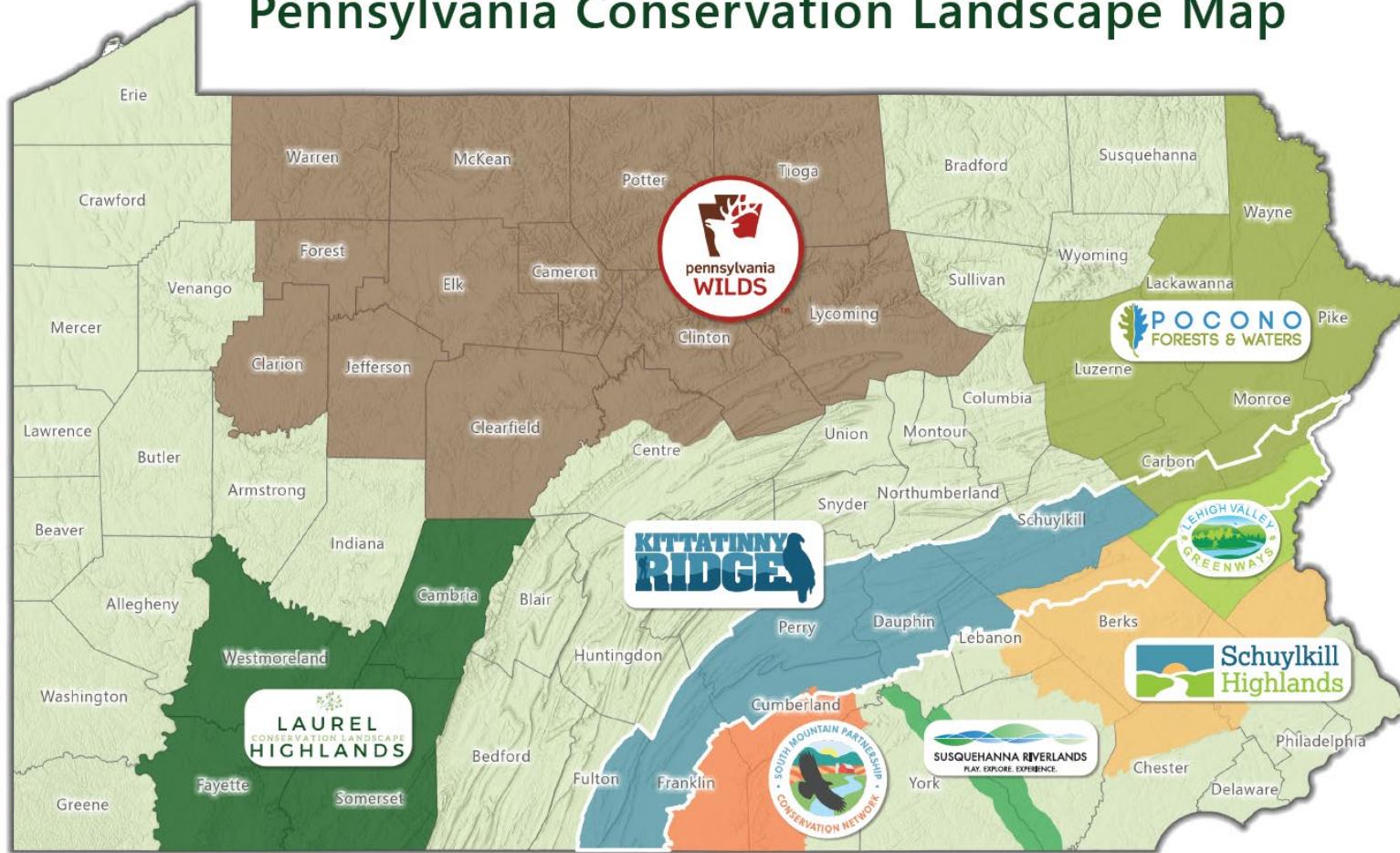


South Mountain Conservation Landscape

June 11, 2025



Pennsylvania Conservation Landscape Map



c. 2000 – DCNR program launched. Focus on natural resources, tourism, and place-based economic development. Each landscape is different depending on local needs and culture.

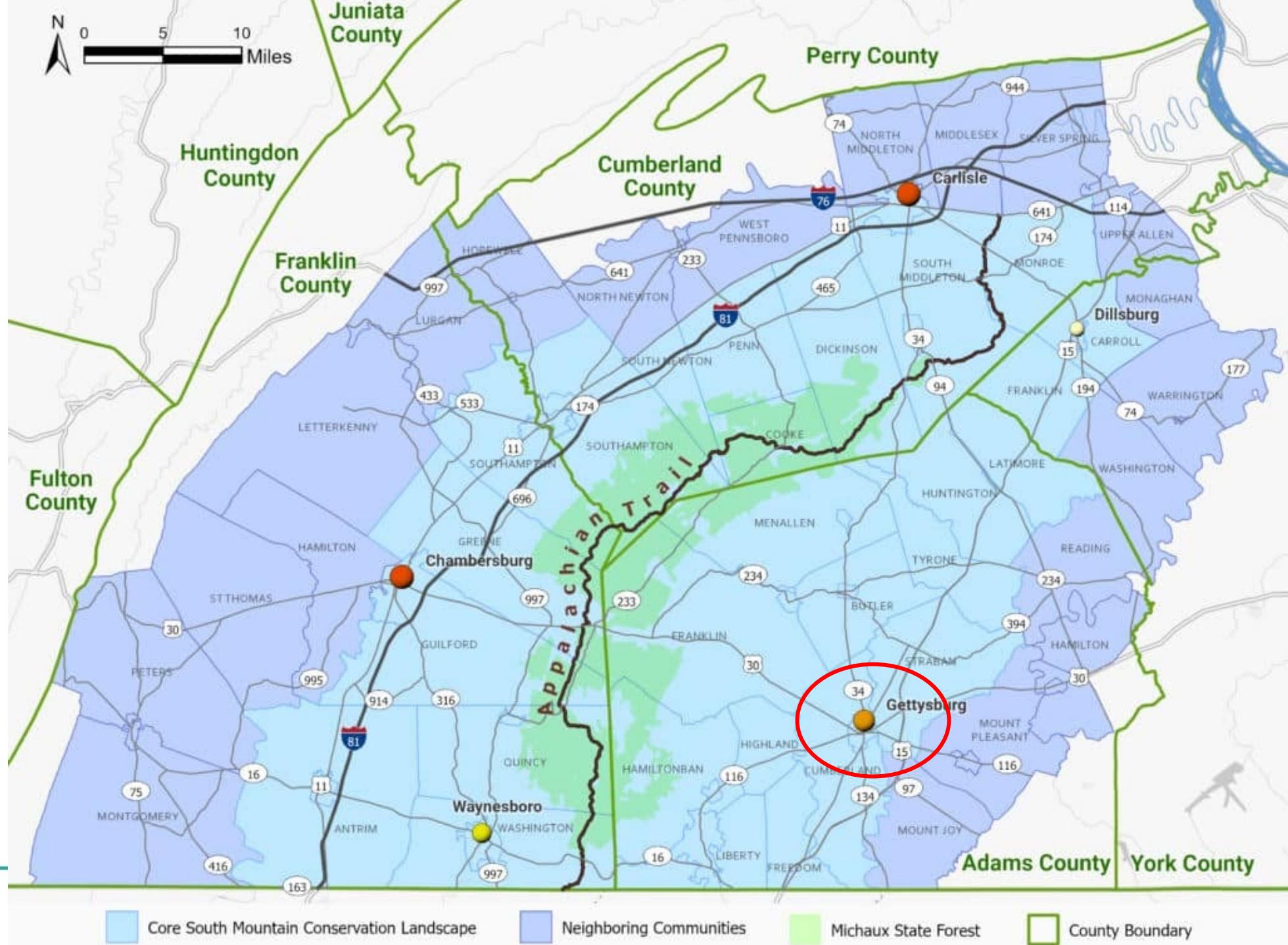
Key ingredients:

1. Core of public lands
2. Strong sense of place
3. Unique social, economic, natural, recreational and agricultural resources
4. Active/engaged partners, people, organizations, individuals, institutions



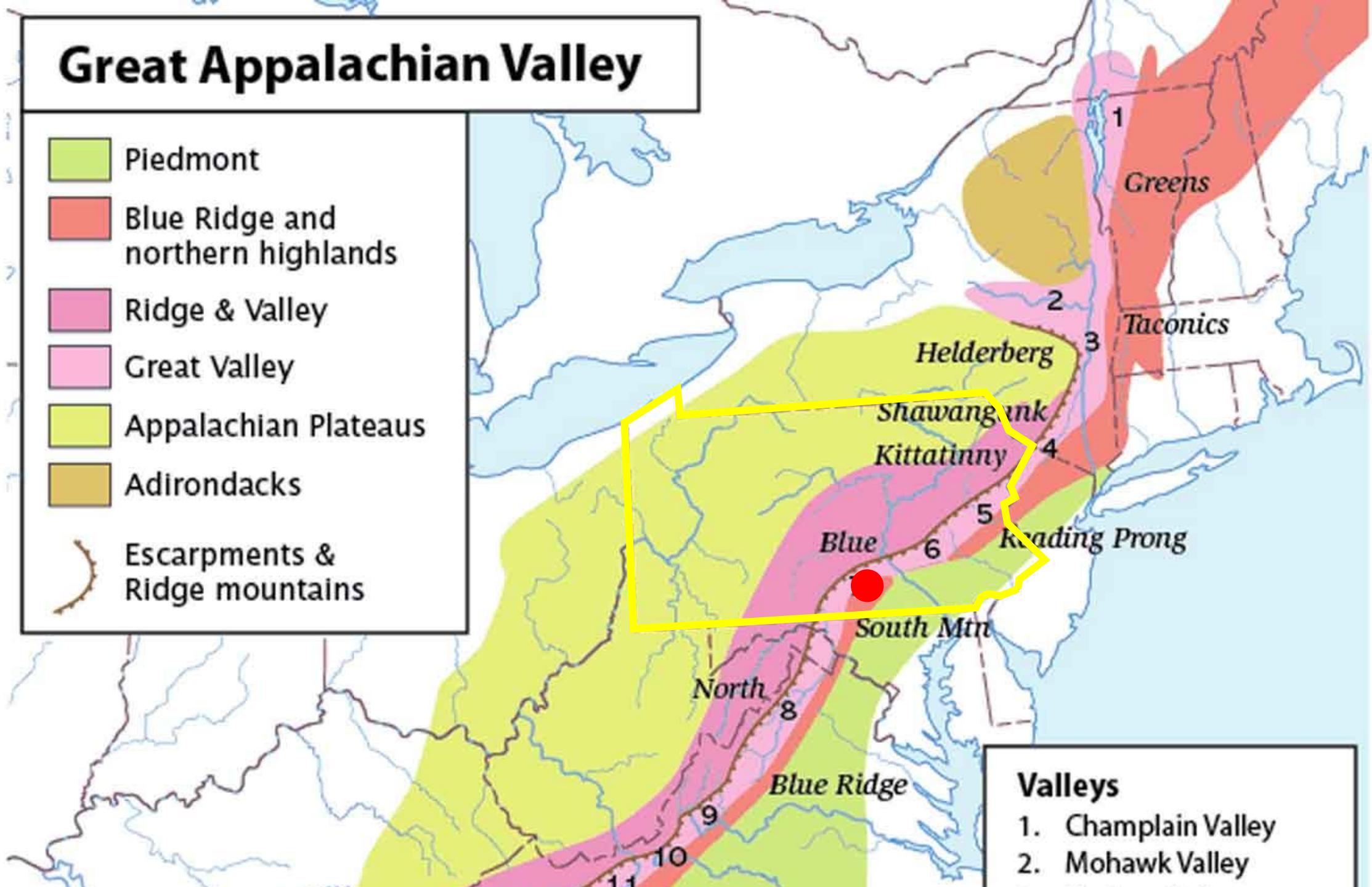


0 5 10 Miles



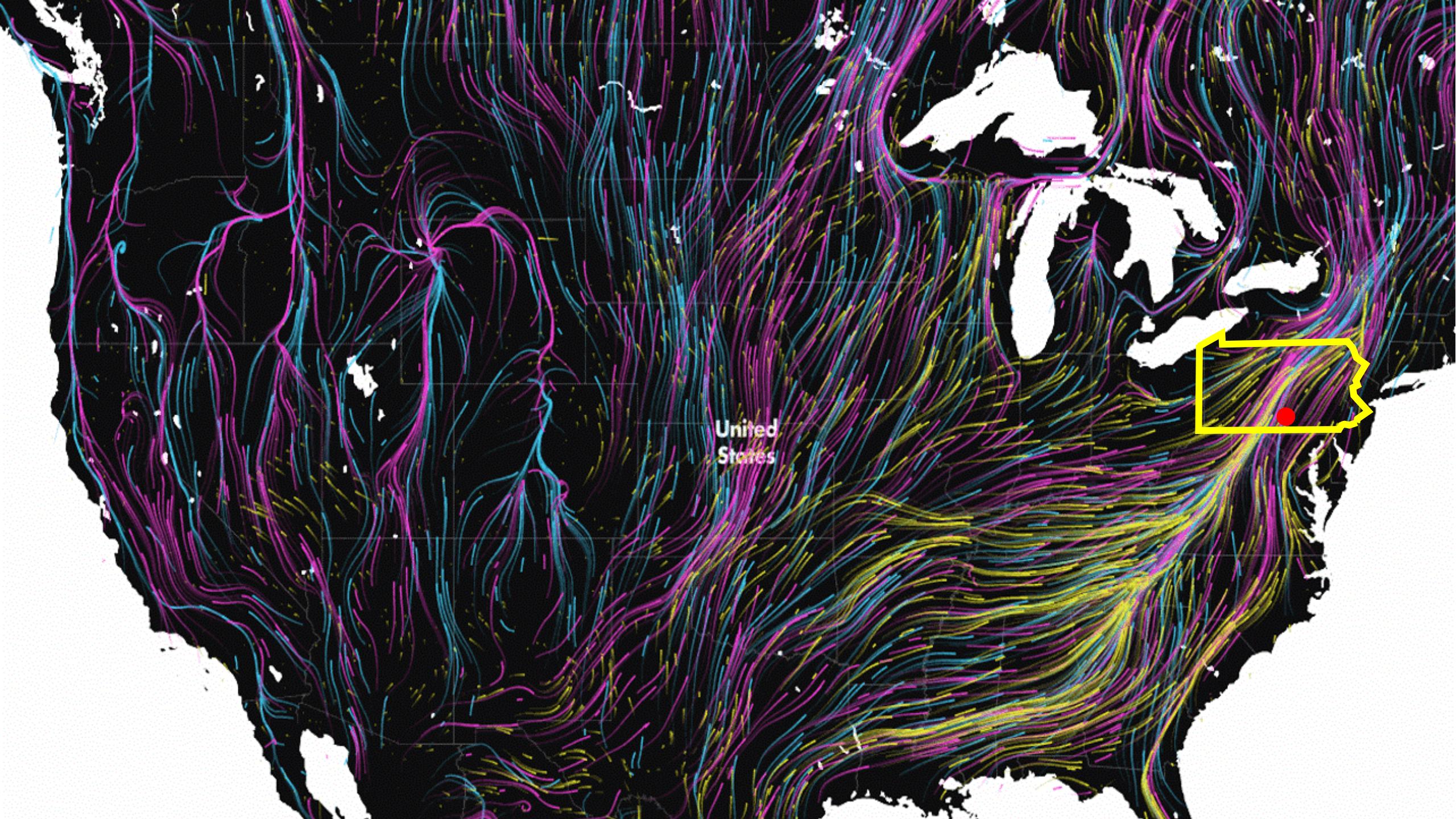
Great Appalachian Valley

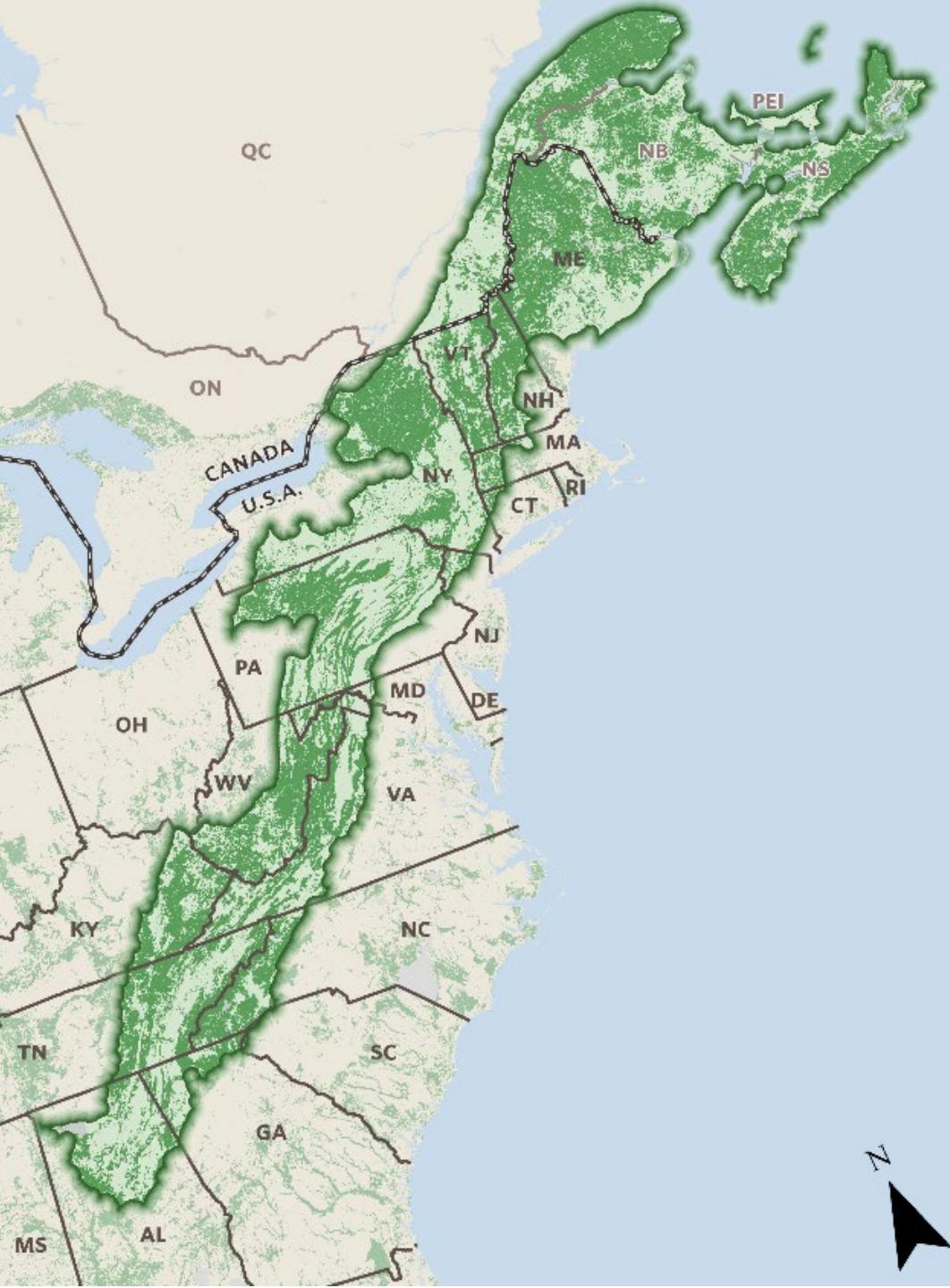
- Piedmont
- Blue Ridge and northern highlands
- Ridge & Valley
- Great Valley
- Appalachian Plateaus
- Adirondacks
- Escarps & Ridge mountains



Valleys

1. Champlain Valley
2. Mohawk Valley





WHAT WE STAND TO LOSE

Natural forces have made the 400-million-year-old Appalachians one of the world's most resilient, diverse and carbon-rich landscapes.

- 80,000 occurrences of rare species
- 56% of the eastern region's above-ground carbon storage
- Oxygen for 1.8 billion people
- Mitigates 1.3 million tons of pollution
- \$25 billion in recreation spending





2026 Pilot – A.T. Community Conservation Collaborative

New York

- Warwick*
- Dover/Pawling*

New Jersey

- Vernon*
- Greater Blairstown

Pennsylvania

- Boiling Springs
- Duncannon
- Greater Waynesboro
- Delaware Water Gap*
- Wind Gap*

Maryland

- Boonsboro
- Brunswick (pending approval)



The many hats we wear..



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN
PARTNERSHIP**
CONSERVATION NETWORK

- Conveners
- Facilitators
- Resource finders, funding allocators
- Partner/people connectors
- Project advancers
- Educators
- Motivators
- Information sharers
- Regional thinkers



Landscape Resources We Seek to Protect



NATURAL



CULTURAL
HISTORIC



RECREATIONAL



AGRICULTURAL



We **bring people together across geo-political & sectorial boundaries** to highlight the importance of this landscape & take action to secure its future.

- State of the Region
- Convene the region's conservation & preservation
 - Regional meetings – 3+ each year
 - 4 Committees, 40+ local committee members
 - 50+ partners
- Grant Programs
 - DCNR Mini-Grants
 - Research Corps Grants
 - Flex Grants
- Research Corps & Science Summit
- Communications



Partnership Meetings – 3 each year

Educational | Highlight partner projects | Camaraderie



Working Committees – 40+ members



Mini-Grant Program

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park Mini-Grant



Pre-application opens in April | Catalyzes on-the-ground projects to preserve & protect

South Mountain Partnership Conservation Network | southmountainpartnership.org



2025 Mini-Grant Program

SMP's Mini-Grant is designed to catalyze on-the-ground projects that sustain South Mountain's sense of place through the protection and promotion of SMP's four identified Landscape Resources for all:

- Natural (Environmental resources like plants and animals, as well as streams and forests)

- Cultural (Historic buildings, Cultural history)

- Agricultural (Farming, orchard, gardens and more)

- Recreational (Trails, parks, fishing and hunting, biking)

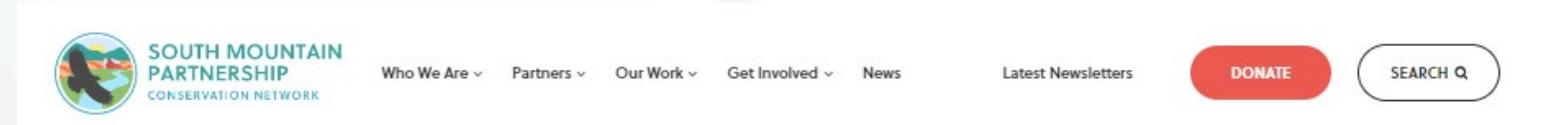
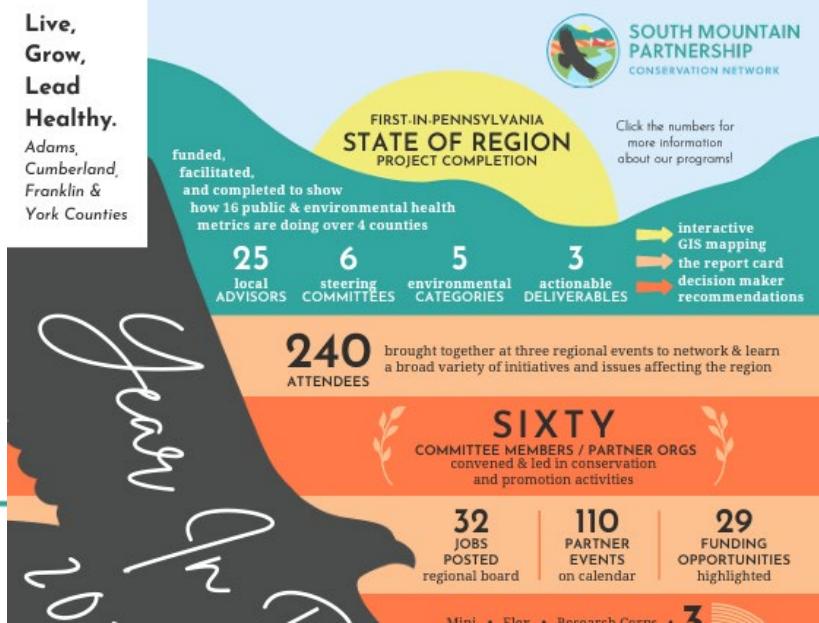
- Our Mini-Grants are single-year grants for projects or work from September 2025 to December 2026, ranging from \$2,500 to \$15,000. A 1:1 match (in-kind or cash) is required. Projects exceeding \$15,000 and up to \$25,000 may be considered if they cover the geographic majority of the South Mountain Region and are in a high funding priority category.
- Eligible applicants include authorized 501(c)(3) non-profits, municipalities, counties, and academic institutions. Projects must occur within Cumberland, Adams, Franklin, or York County.
 - Pre-applications are due by April 30, 2025.



Research Corps Program & Science Summit

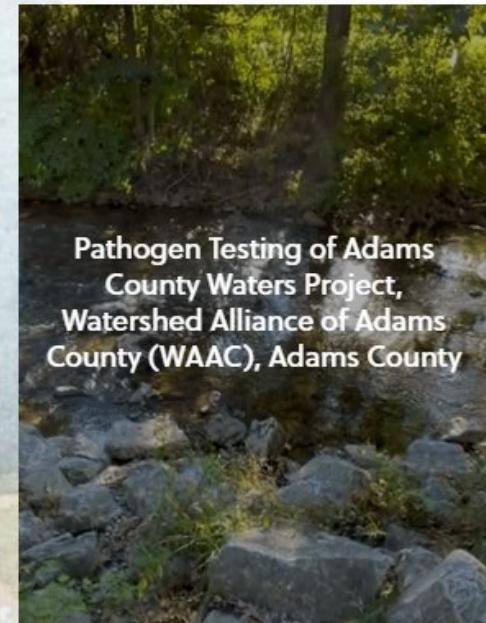


Communications & Engagement

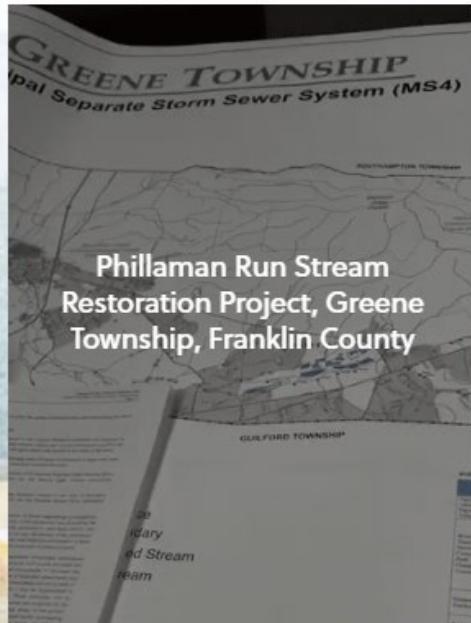


Our Impact

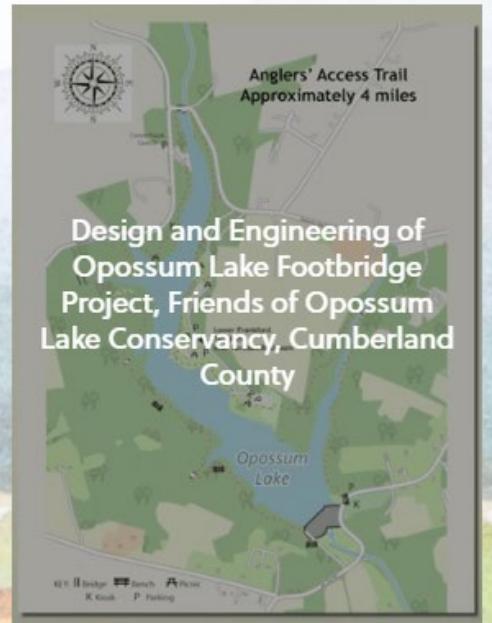
Our work within the region



Pathogen Testing of Adams County Waters Project, Watershed Alliance of Adams County (WAAC), Adams County



Phillaman Run Stream Restoration Project, Greene Township, Franklin County

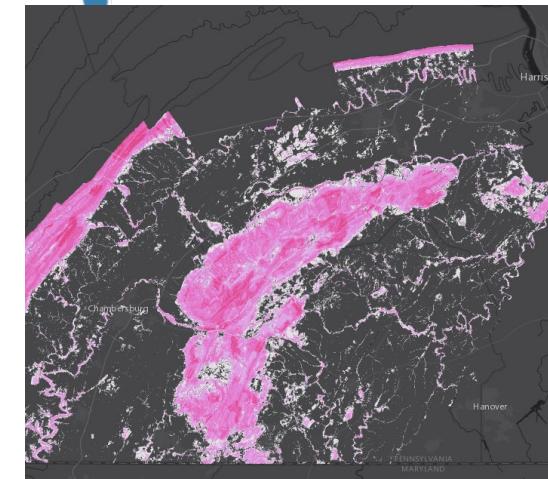
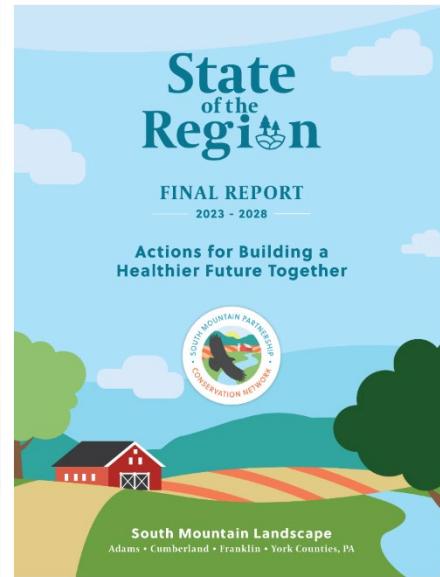


Design and Engineering of Opossum Lake Footbridge Project, Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy, Cumberland County

State of the Region

first in the state!

- Report Card
- Mapping
- Final Report/Recommendations



Goals & Objectives

- Understand and communicate regional observations, trends, challenges (quality of life, conservation, recreation, public health) over time
- Develop recommendations and tools
- Facilitate collective and collaborative actions to impact identified challenges



Counties' Input

- Steering Committee
 - Role
 - Input
 - Monthly meetings
- Survey & Questionnaire
- Plan Review
- Planning Directors' meeting



Report Card – “How are we doing?”

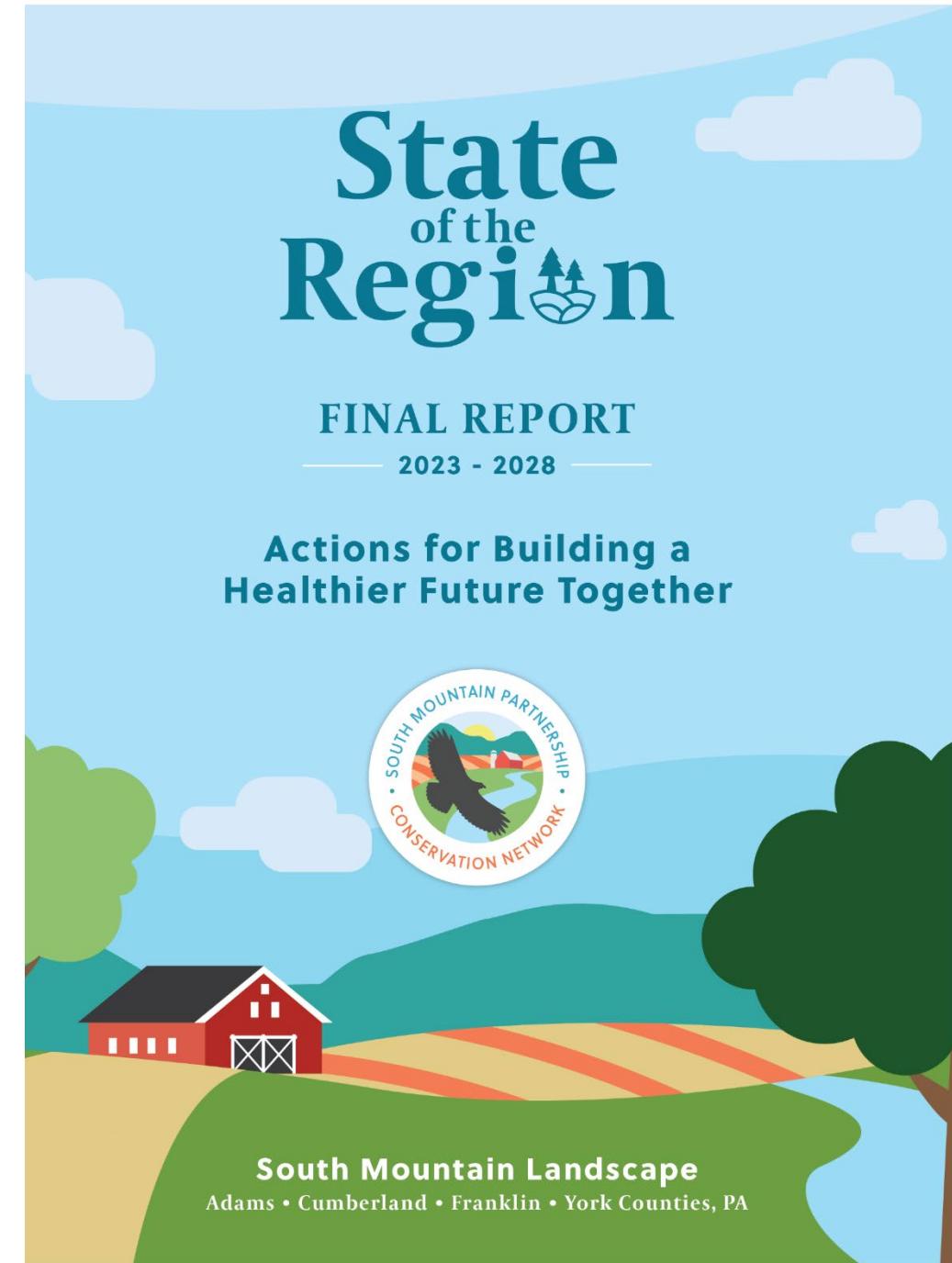


- FOR: PUBLIC
- Confirms what is going well and what we should continue!
- Identifies lots to understand better
- Understand where we need course corrections



Final Report & Recommendations

- FOR: DECISION MAKERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, INFLUENCERS
- Summary of entire process
- Details about measurements, analysis, mapping
- Identifies regional challenges
- Proposes 70 recommendations for addressing challenges
- SMP adopted 5 of the 70 recommendations



What has happened? What's next?

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

SMP adopted 5 recommended actions that fit our unique role in the region.



Update Natural Heritage Inventories *(in progress)*



Convene a Regional Trail Coalition

- Expand regional trails
- Connect trails to parks and communities



Establish wildlife corridors



Inventory the region's historic resources



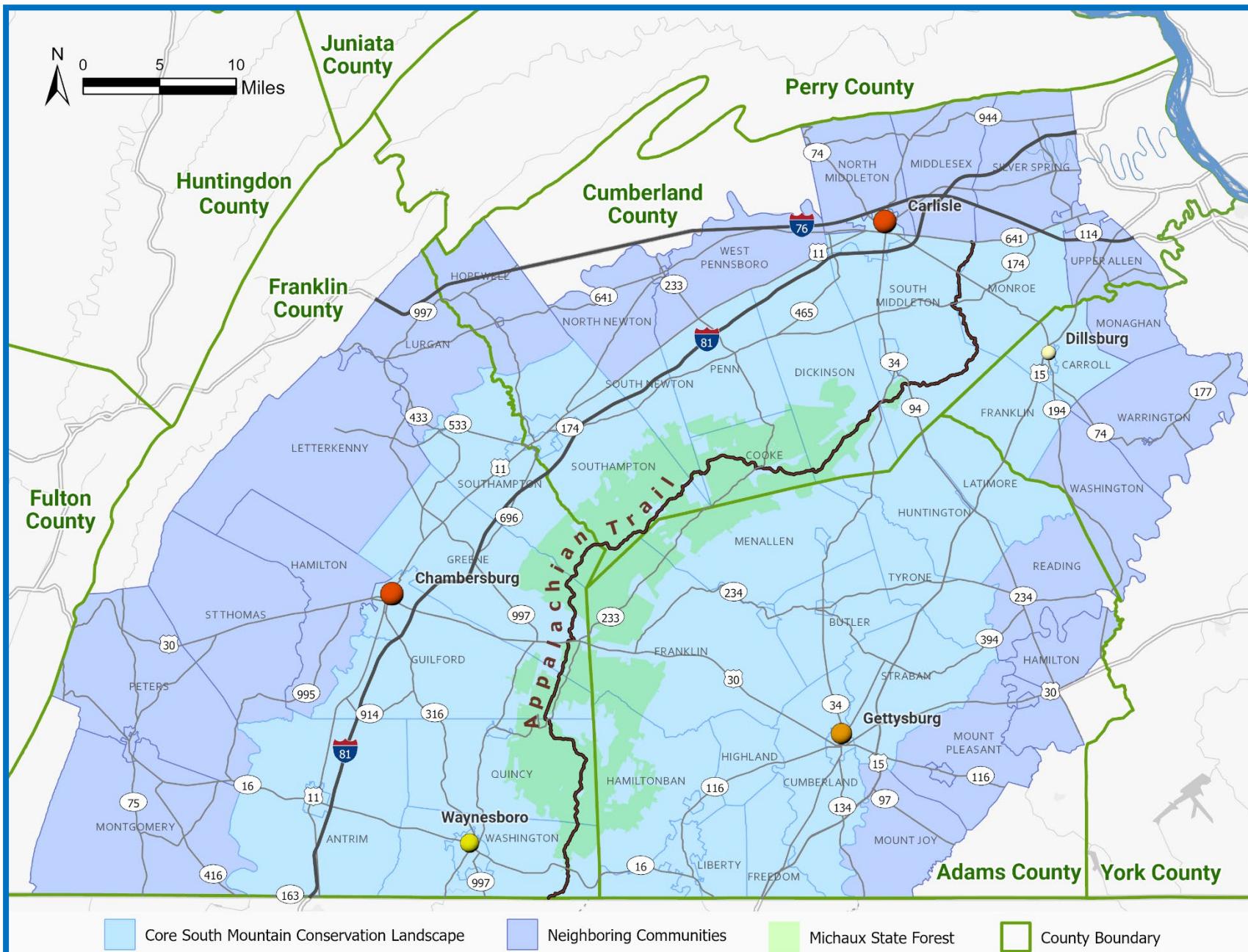
Track land conversion



Get Involved!

- Sign-up for newsletter (sign up sheet being passed around)
- Financial support (Friends of South Mountain Partnership, TFEC)
 - Sponsor events
 - Donate
- Attend a regional meeting (next one is May 16 in Adams County!)
- Volunteer
 - Committee member
 - Connect us to your community





Comments/Q&A

Katie Hess

Director of Pennsylvania Landscape Conservation, Director of South Mountain Partnership

khess@appalachiantrail.org

