



LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND REQUEST | FISCAL YEAR 2010

Project Name

Roan Highlands, North Carolina
Pisgah National Forest

Parcel: 442 acres

LWCF request: \$1,875,000

Total project value: \$2,000,000

Natural Resources

Northern hardwood forests
Old growth beech & oak groves
Roan Highlands
Roaring Creek watershed
Appalachian Trail corridor

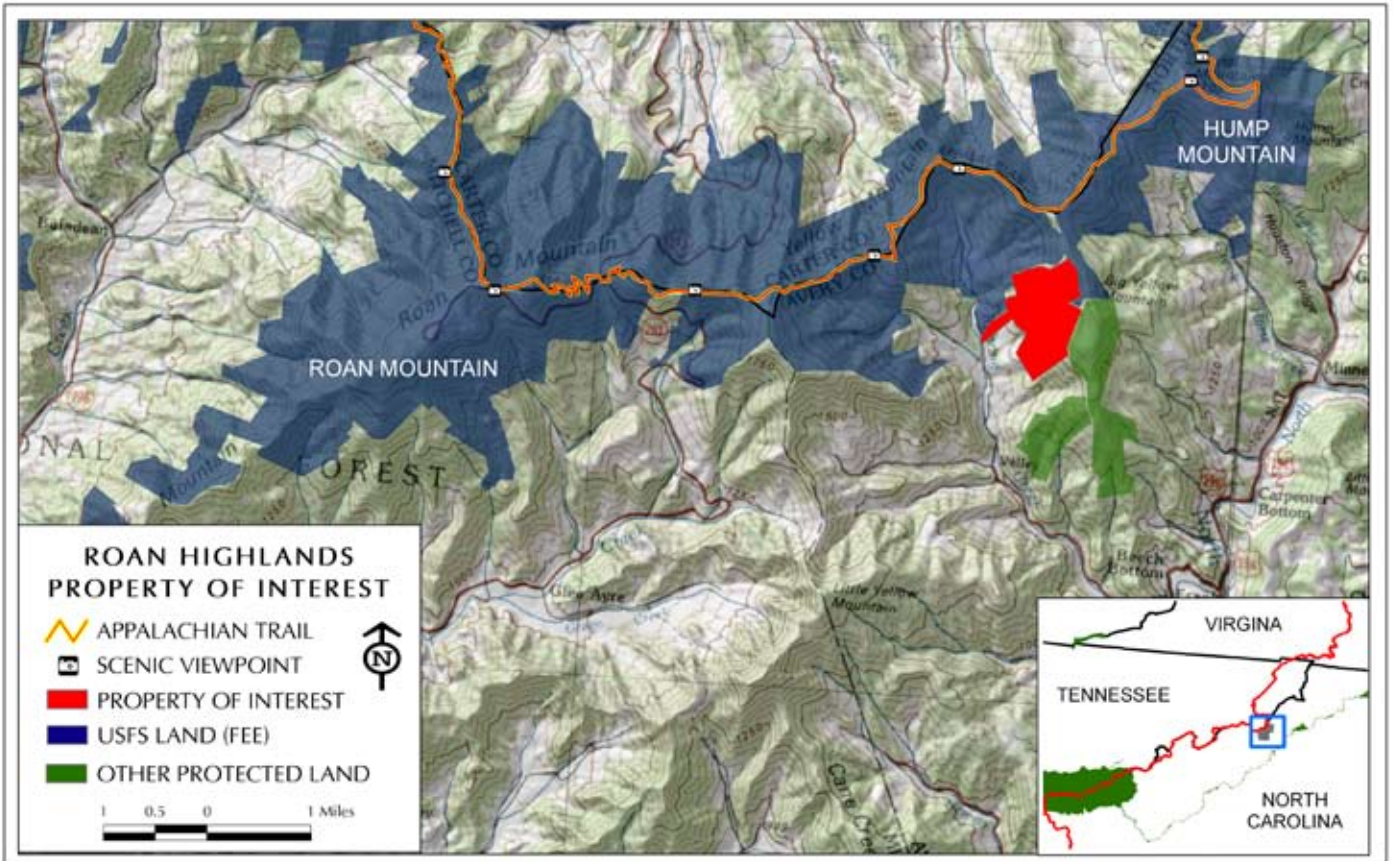
Significance

Contiguous wildlife corridor
Open space protection
Scenic views & ridgelines

The 442-acre Roan Highlands tract rises to an elevation of 5,200 feet in the Roaring Creek Valley along the North Carolina/Tennessee line. The tract is within North Carolina, in Avery County in the Pisgah National Forest. Boundaries are shared with the U.S. Forest Service lands buffering the Appalachian Trail and with The Nature Conservancy's Big Yellow Mountain Preserve. The tract joins 17,000 acres of protected lands, and is a priority for acquisition in the 24,000-acre Roan Highlands project area.

The Roan Highlands property comprises nearly half of the viewshed from the Appalachian Trail's Over-Mountain Shelter and the footpath rising at Yellow Mountain Gap; it is also identified as a priority acquisition in the USFS-A.T. Optimal Location Review.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), as lead negotiator on behalf of a partnership including Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, has obtained a letter of intent from the seller to protect the property. Thanks to an \$1.875 million award from the North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund, and an \$1.875 million private donation, TPL should close on the property in December 2008.



The state of North Carolina would then hold title and lease the land to The Nature Conservancy and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy for management. The state hopes that the Forest Service will in turn buy the parcel and consolidate its ownership in Pisgah National Forest.