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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY RECLAIMING ICONIC A.T. VISTAS AND IMPROVING WILDLIFE HABITATS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBAL HEAVY EQUIPMENT COMPANY KUBOTA

HARPERS FERRY, W.Va. (Sep. 11, 2018) – The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), an organization working to preserve and enhance the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) for more than 92 years, announced today a new partnership with [Kubota](#), a leading global provider of lawn mowers, utility vehicles, construction equipment, agriculture tractors and hay equipment.

The partnership involves Kubota graciously providing the ATC with the usage of a compact track loader, a high-tech machine that can operate in remote Trail sections. The powerful 96 horsepower diesel engine easily removes invasive woody vegetation. The mower attachment for the Kubota tractor is generously provided by [Beverage Tractor](#), Virginia's largest full-line Kubota dealer located in Stuarts Draft.



The ATC's partnership with Kubota will greatly assist in the protection of multiple open landscapes along the Appalachian Trail in Virginia.

"Corporate partners are critical to the ATC and our ability to fulfill our mission of protecting the Appalachian Trail, one of the most important landscapes in the eastern United States," said Laura Belleville, vice president of conservation and trail management for the ATC. "We give big thanks to Kubota for providing us with equipment and training so that we can enhance 614 acres of habitat for important wildlife species while also improving some amazing scenic areas. Kubota joins our other vital corporate partners who provide us with vital safety, clothing and backpacking equipment that allows our field crew and educators to provide exceptional services to the public."

In the absence of historic natural disturbances and large grazers that formerly roamed the Appalachian Mountains, ATC selectively removes woody vegetation to maintain habitat for populations animals, such as monarch butterflies, golden-winged warblers, and rare bees, that require open, shrubby areas, or grasslands.

This work is just a part of the ATC's ongoing stewardship efforts to care for the A.T.'s various rare, threatened and endangered species.

"We're particularly proud of any opportunity we have to offer our expertise and equipment to a worthy cause, and we're thrilled to provide assistance to the ATC," said Todd Stucke, senior vice president, marketing, product support & strategic projects at Kubota. "Their work helps ensure the A.T. remains a magical experience for hikers and a vital part of our shared American heritage. We build our products for maximum efficiency and durability, and are confident this compact track loader will serve the ATC well in its worthy efforts."

About Kubota Tractor Corporation

Kubota Tractor Corporation, Grapevine, Texas, is the U.S. marketer and distributor of Kubota-engineered and manufactured machinery and equipment, including a complete line of tractors of

up to 170 Gross hp, performance matched implements, compact and utility-class construction equipment, consumer lawn and garden equipment, hay tools and spreaders, commercial turf products and utility vehicles. For product literature or dealer locations, contact: Kubota Tractor Corporation, 1000 Kubota Drive, Grapevine, TX 76051, (888) 4-KUBOTA [(888) 458-2682], Ext. 900, or visit KubotaUSA.com.

About the Appalachian Trail Conservancy

The ATC was founded in 1925 by volunteers and federal officials working to build a continuous footpath along the Appalachian Mountains. A unit of the National Park System, the A.T. ranges from Maine to Georgia and is approximately 2,190 miles in length. It is the longest hiking-only footpath in the world. On October 2, 2018, the ATC will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act, which protects the A.T. and other scenic trails as part of the National Park System. The mission of the ATC is to preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail – ensuring that its vast natural beauty and priceless cultural heritage can be shared and enjoyed today, tomorrow, and for centuries to come. For more information, please visit appalachiantrail.org.

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