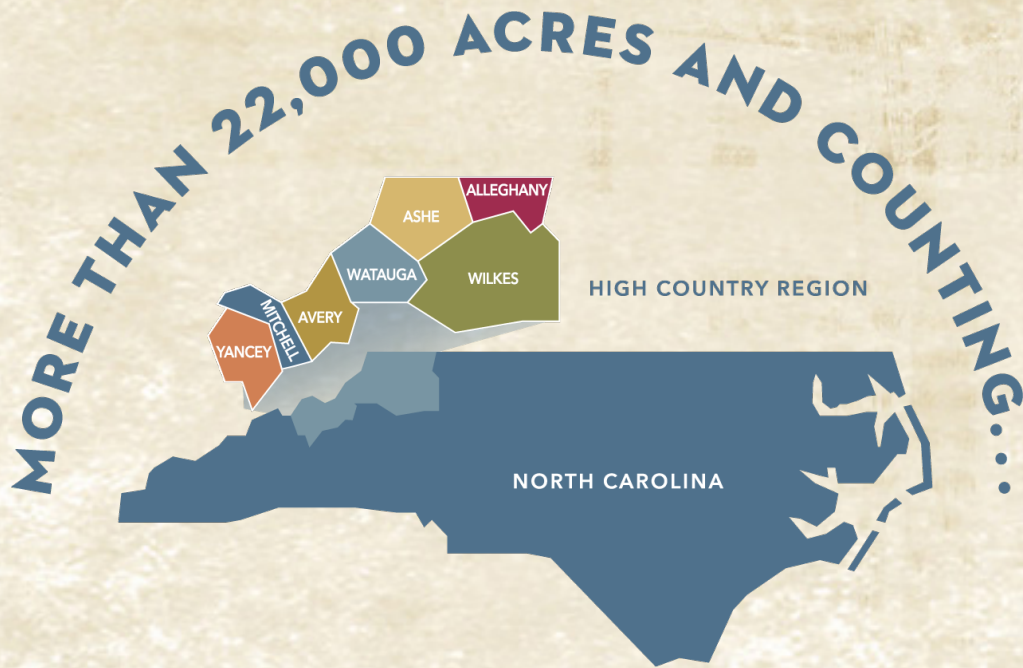


# Blue Ridge Conservancy's Conservation Plan

Photo: Craig Lancaster



## VISION

Blue Ridge Conservancy strengthens community by conserving the lands that connect and sustain us.

## MISSION

Blue Ridge Conservancy partners with landowners and local communities to permanently protect natural resources with agricultural, cultural, recreational, ecological and scenic value in northwest North Carolina.

The Conservation Plan provides a guide for future directions, decisions and conservation opportunities. The plan addresses three themes of land prioritization:

- Connecting People to Nature
- Conserving Resilient Land
- Protecting Scenic Landscapes



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship



BLUE RIDGE  
CONSERVANCY  
SAVING THE PLACES YOU LOVE





# PLAN OVERVIEW

## CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

### Agriculture

A strong local food system is only possible if suitable land is available. BRC plans to conserve prime and important farmland for agricultural activities. This focus will provide opportunities for existing family farms to survive and for the development of new farm enterprises.

### Cultural

Appalachian culture is deeply tied to its historical agrarian heritage. This mountain heritage requires protected land for sustainable forestry, hunting, foraging and other traditional activities. BRC plans to conserve unique lands to protect these cultural qualities.

### Recreational

Time spent in nature enhances individual and community health. BRC plans to create ongoing opportunities for public access to land and water resources. This includes providing equitable opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors regardless of race, physical mobility or socio-economic levels.

## CONSERVING RESILIENT LAND

### Ecological

Land connectivity and linkages to other ecologically important areas prevent habitat fragmentation. BRC will focus on corridors that link existing protected land with high conservation value. The diversity in elevation and landcover creates exceptional habitat for many species unique to this region, which is one of the most biologically diverse and important in the United States. BRC plans to help maintain the resiliency of this land in the face of climate change and development by focusing on these areas.

## PROTECTING SCENIC LANDSCAPES

### Scenic

Protecting ridgelines preserves ancient viewsheds for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. BRC will focus on land with high scenic value, providing visual relief in this ever-developing region. This includes high mountain ridges, open river valleys and family farms.

