

# VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION OWNED LANDS ACTIVITIES REPORT

Prepared for the September 24, 2026 Board Meeting

## Poor Mountain Parcel

### 10.25 acres in Roanoke County

VOF acquired 10.25 acres near the Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve in late October 2017 as part of negotiated mitigation and substitute land for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) crossing a VOF easement. The deed of acceptance for the 10.25 acres in fee from the pipeline company included language designating the property be retained and used in perpetuity as open-space land pursuant to Chapter 17, Title 10.1, Sections 10.1-1700 through 10.1-1705 of the Code of Virginia, as amended the Open-Space Land Act.

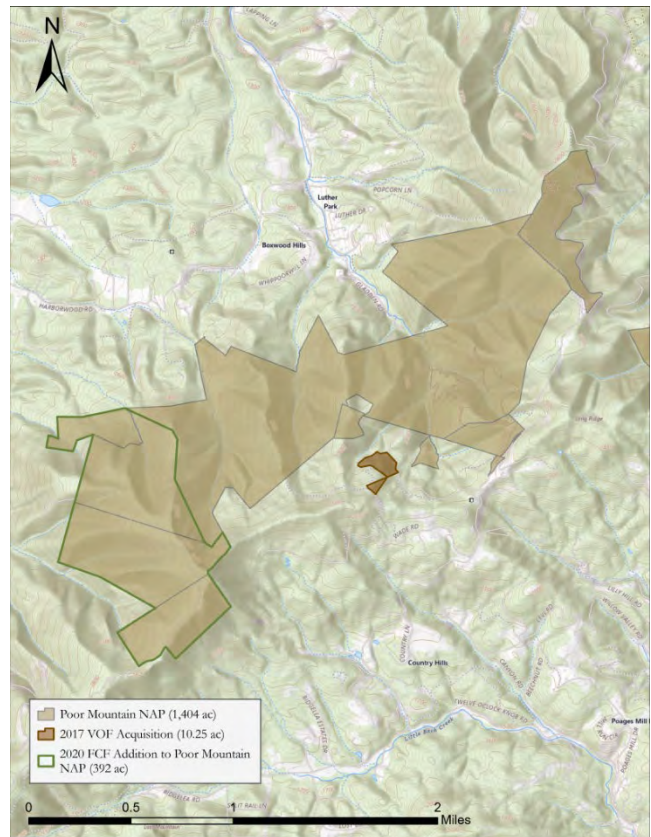
Acceptance of the conveyance of 10.25 acres fee simple was authorized by the VOF Board of Trustees at its meeting held on October 16, 2017, and tied to the approval of a permanent access Right of Way to MVP of approximately 675 linear feet along an existing unpaved road averaging 10 feet in width and approximately 10 to 20 feet of adjacent area totaling 0.32 acres.

The Poor Mountain parcel was selected as appropriate substitute land with input from, and the intention to eventually transfer the parcel to, DCR-DNH to be added to the Poor Mountain Preserve. For the parcel to be accepted by DCR it must be contiguous with the existing Preserve.

The Forest CORE Fund for the Mountain Valley Pipeline region was established in June 2018 using \$15 million from a mitigation agreement between the Secretary of Natural Resources Commonwealth of Virginia and Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC. The Fund's purpose is to mitigate forest fragmentation that resulted from the clearing and grubbing activities along the pipeline's 303-mile right-of-way through Virginia traversing six counties. 25 Grants have been awarded since FY 2019 for a total of \$9.8 million to projects that mitigate for forest fragmentation by preserving, connecting and enhancing forest resources.

VOF has contacted parcel owners that would achieve contiguity between the existing Preserve and the VOF Poor Mountain parcel to gauge interest in selling. We currently have a potential acquisition that would achieve same and have commissioned an appraisal in pursuit of reaching an agreement to purchase with the owner.

Staff would like authorization to acquire parcel(s) that would connect the VOF Poor Mountain parcel with the Poor Mountain Preserve and to utilize the Forest Core Fund for acquisition and due diligence costs. SEE RESOLUTION Page 6



## **BULL RUN MOUNTAINS NATURAL AREA PRESERVE**

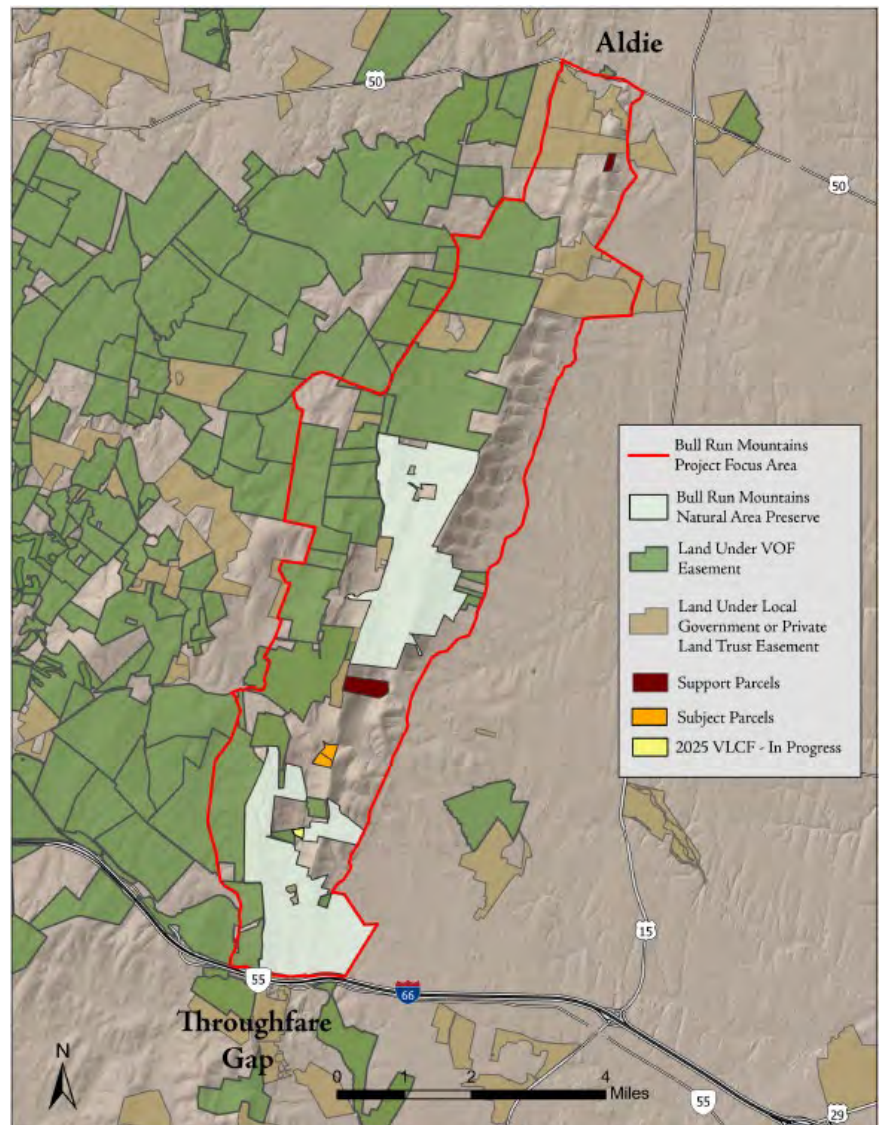
**2,528 acres in Prince William and Fauquier Counties**

### **Virginia Land Conservation Foundation and the DCR-VOF BRMNAP Resiliency Plan**

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, staff submitted an application to the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) grant round in the Natural Areas category with a request for \$1,288,140 that would enable the acquisition of 30.67 acres of land from the Leo Scolforo Trust that has been identified as a critical in the DCR-VOF BRMNAP resiliency plan.

If awarded, this would be the third VLCF grant in the Natural Areas category that has been awarded to VOF for acquisitions to expand BRMNAP. The first was in 2023, VOF was a recipient of a grant of up to \$500,000 to acquire 10.13 acres known as the Eastern Overlook parcel. The second award of \$411,000 is in progress and was awarded in 2025 for the acquisition of the 5.49 acres Body Parcel (highlighted in yellow in the accompanying figure).

The Scolforo parcels (highlighted in orange) are identified by ConserveVirginia as important for Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Diversity and Protected Landscapes Resilience, Floodplain and Flooding Resiliency, Scenic Preservation, and Protected Landscape Resilience. It would protect the rural quality of the Southern side of the Fauquier County entrance from Prince William County along Scenic byway Route 601 (Hopewell Road). The three parcels contain diverse wetland habitats and pristine upslope Element Occurrence (EO) community of Central Appalachian / Inner Piedmont Chestnut Oak. Further, it is thought to contain a suspected den site for disjunct and threatened population of timber rattlesnake.



## DCR and VOF Collaboration on Stewardship, Research, and Outreach at BRMNAP

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Natural Heritage (DCR-DNH) has collaborated with VOF staff on a number of Stewardship, Research, and Outreach projects at VOF's Preserve property:

- DCR-DNH's Karen Patterson and Mike Lott joined VOF staff in August to survey the Highpoint Restoration Area vegetation survey to acquire the last dataset needed to quantify the ecological success of the restoration. Given that sustainable summits are of growing interest for Virginia land managers and restoration ecologists, this 10+ year case study will be written up and submitted to the peer-reviewed Natural Areas Journal by VOF and DCR staff.
- While VOF is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> year, DCR is celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Division of Natural Heritage. To celebrate this milestone, public events that highlight the successes of the Natural Heritage Program are being held at select preserves. On August 29<sup>th</sup> a public hike to the Highpoint Restoration Area was hosted by DCR and VOF.
- VOF staff have begun a collaborative study with DCR-DNH's Invasive Species Team, Natural Areas Biologist and several regional managers, along with the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF), to investigate efficacy of utilizing prescribed burns as an Invasive Plant Management (IPM) strategy. Wavyleaf basketgrass is an emerging invasive species of great concern that state land managers are hoping to prevent from becoming as pervasive as Japanese stilt grass.



## **Their Ancestors Walked Here: Connecting Descendants to Their Historical Homeplaces at BRMNAP**

The Preserve is known for connecting people to a place of natural integrity and beauty but continues to serve as point of cultural and familial connection. Below are brief descriptions of select events:

- In July, preserve staff welcomed family members from as far as California and Michigan that have ties to the Gaskins to visit the homestead site in the North Section.
- Also in July, Preserve Manager, Joe Villari, was invited to speak to an audience of over 100 at the Pinn family reunion in Manassas on the work that VOF is doing to connect descendants to their homeplaces at BRMNAP. This family reunion occurs every two years and occurs at diasporic locations nationwide and includes descendants from over 100 African-American family surnames/lineages that have connection to the Pinn family and the Bull Run Mountains area.
- We are preparing for the Preserve's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Robinson-Corum Descendant's Day event on October 10<sup>th</sup> where members of two core families that occupied several homesteads join us for a day of family history and honoring their ancestors. Participants gather to tell family stories, share photos, and visit homestead sites and the family cemetery. Some of the patriarchs and matriarchs that grew up as kids in the Bull Run Mountains tell stories to their kids, grandkids, and great grandkids. This event has enabled the collection of valuable oral histories and information that could not be collected through any other means.



## **HOUSE MOUNTAIN RESERVE**

**884 acres in Rockbridge County**

Virginia Military Institute (VMI) continued their annual tradition, that has taken place for generations, of leading their first-year cadets, also known as “rats”, to the summit of Big House Mountain. On August 20 and August 21, 2026, approximately 500 cadets made the nearly seven-mile hike as part of the initial Matriculation Week that introduces new cadets to the VMI lifestyle. House Mountain is integral to the VMI experience and features prominently in the lives and memories of all those that attend the school.





VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES'  
RESOLUTION REGARDING ACQUISITION OF LAND AT  
POOR MOUNTAIN NATURAL AREA PRESERVE

WHEREAS, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (“VOF”) is the owner in fee simple of 10.25 acres (the “VOF Parcel”) near the Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve (the “Preserve”) located in Roanoke County, which Preserve is owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia through the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage (“DCR-DNH”);

WHEREAS, the VOF Parcel was acquired in 2017 in connection with the development of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, an interstate natural gas transmission pipeline;

WHEREAS, the VOF Parcel was selected for its exceptional conservation value and as a potential addition to the Preserve;

WHEREAS, current state law limits expansion of the Preserve to land that is contiguous to the Preserve;

WHEREAS, the Forest Core Fund provided \$562,504 to DCR-DNH to acquire four parcels for a total of 279 acres of land to add to the Preserve. The project was approved by the Board of Trustees at the December 5, 2018 meeting and the acquisition was completed in 2020;

WHEREAS, acquisition of land that would create contiguity between the VOF Parcel and the Preserve is consistent with Forest Core Fund program rules, and would facilitate the transfer of the VOF Parcel, which transfer was the ultimate goal of the VOF acquisition in 2017;

**NOW THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2026 that the acquisition of land adjacent to the VOF Parcel and the Preserve is hereby approved, subject to and contingent upon the following conditions:

- a. The Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair and counsel, finds that the acquisition contains acceptable and reasonable terms and conditions.
- b. The parcel(s) being acquired achieves contiguity with the Preserve and staff at DCR-DNH find that the parcel meets criteria as an addition to the Preserve.
- c. All due diligence for acquisition is completed.
- d. The funds for such acquisition and subsequent transfer of parcels to DCR-DNH may utilize the Forest Core Fund.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director is authorized to execute all documents and take actions necessary on behalf of the Foundation to acquire such parcels of land.

ADOPTED by a vote of \_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_\_\_ against

---

ATTEST: Brett Christina Glymph, Executive Director