Lower Holston

Conservation Opportunity Area

The Lower Holston Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) is contained within the Ridge and Valley ecoregion. Agricultural activities are the dominant form of land use, commonly small farms interspersed with residential development. Federally endangered Gray Bats and other GCN species such as American Woodcock, Eastern Box Turtle, and Northern Bobwhite have been documented here, along with more common species such as the Hoary Bat.

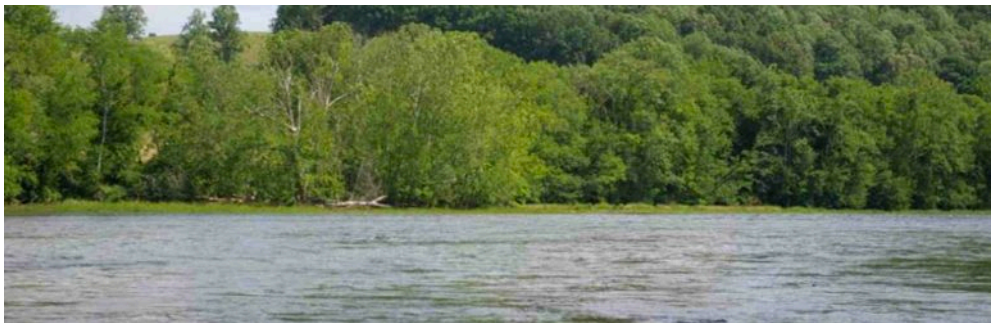
Most of the larger streams in this area meander parallel to the ridges and contain extensive cobble and gravel shoal areas. The smaller streams in this COA are characterized by limestone rubble with bedrock riffles and silty sand pool areas. These geological features increase productivity by adding nutrients to the region's soil and waters, enhancing wildlife species diversity.

This COA encompasses approximately 290 square miles and contains the Holston River below Cherokee Reservoir. Approximately 400 acres of this COA are publicly owned and provide limited outdoor recreational opportunities, primarily along the river. TWRA's Region 4 quail focal area is located within this COA.

This COA provides habitat for multiple GCN species, and it is a focal area for Lake Sturgeon reintroduction efforts. An experimental population of the federally listed Snail Darter resides within this COA as well.

Public Lands within the COA

Buffalo Springs Wildlife Management Area, House Mountain State Natural Area



In this region, agriculture is the dominant form of land use, commonly small farms. This COA contains the Holston River below Cherokee Reservoir.

Top to bottom: Hoary Bat - Daniel Neal; Wary (Eastern Box Turtle) - Ezra Freelove; Holston River below Cherokee Reservoir - TWRA/next page: Northern Bobwhite Quail - USFWS

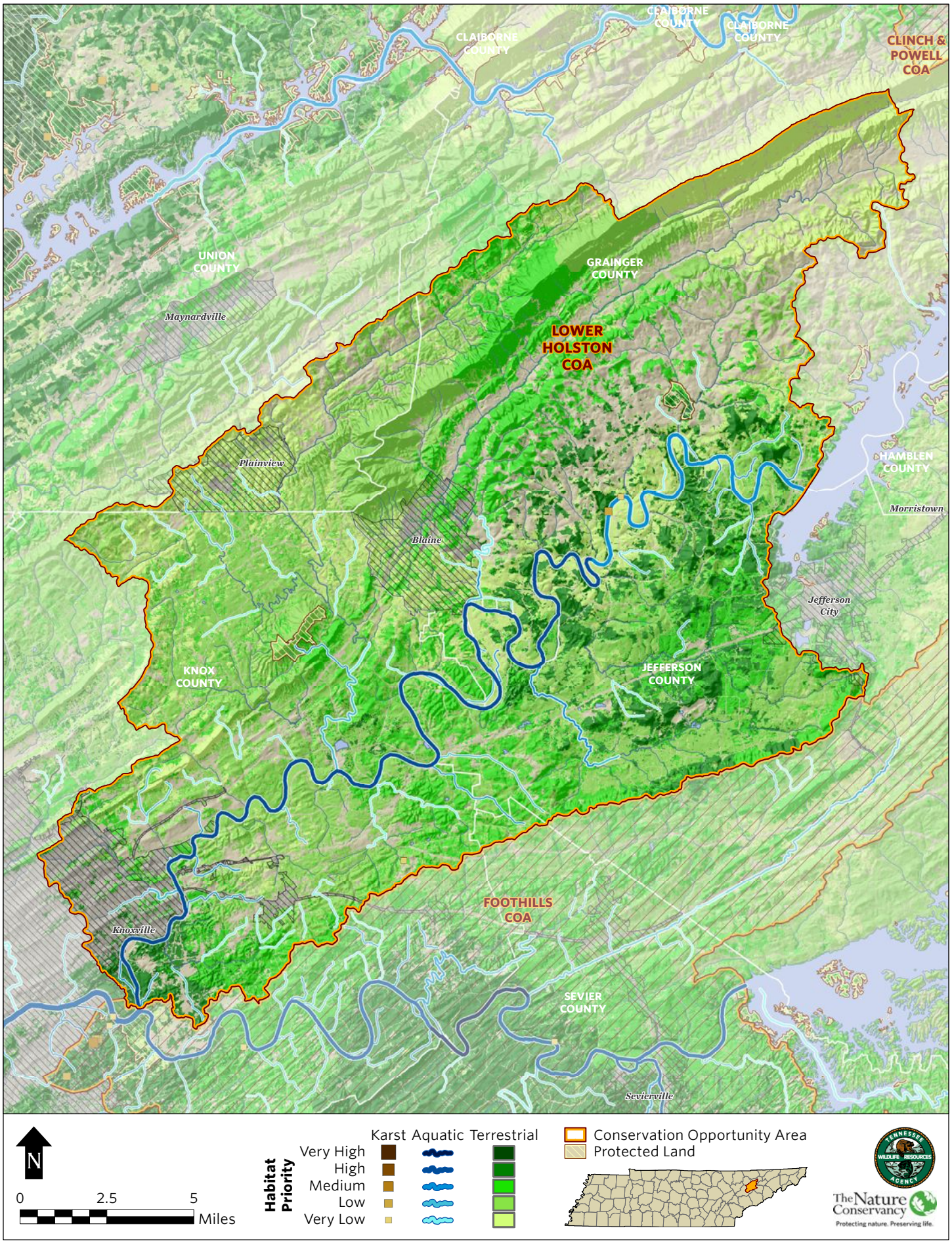
Lower Holston
Conservation Opportunity Area

Partnerships

To implement priority conservation and management strategies, including species propagation and reintroduction, TWRA will continue to work with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Division of Forestry, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Tennessee Aquarium, Middle Tennessee State University, and private land owners. TWRA will also seek to educate local governments and private developers about sensitive habitats and water quality issues.

	Desired Change	Units
+	Increase the application of Best Management Practices to benefit GCN species and habitats on private lands using government funded incentive programs.	number
+	Increase forest acres in or near critical habitat units by restoring degraded forests and other areas.	acres
+	Restore acres or stream miles of habitat through natural process restoration.	acres/miles
+	Develop and implement integrated pest management plan to aid in the control of native and exotic pests.	acres
+	Increase acres of protected habitat through purchase of land - whether fee title or easements - to secure critical habitat units and areas for restoration and management.	acres
+	Increase and improve the awareness, education, and cooperation of stakeholders/citizens pertaining to GCN species and habitat.	number
−	Decrease the negative effects of development on GCN species and habitats by providing data to municipalities in planning/zoning processes with potential impacts on GCN species.	plans
+	Increase GCN species populations (propagation/translocation).	animals

To learn more about the Lower Holston Conservation Opportunity Area, please contact:
Scott Dykes, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Region 4 (423) 587-7037


CLAIBORNE COUNTY
CLAIBORNE COUNTY
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CLINCH & POWELL COA
UNION COUNTY
Maynardville
GRAINGER COUNTY
LOWER HOLSTON COA
Plainview
Blaine
HAMBLEN COUNTY
Morristown
Jefferson City
KNOX COUNTY
JEFFERSON COUNTY
FOOTHILLS COA
Knoxville
SEVIER COUNTY
Sevierville
N
0
2.5
5
Miles
Habitat Priority
Karst
Aquatic
Terrestrial
Very High
High
Medium
Low
Very Low
Conservation Opportunity Area
Protected Land
The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

	LOWER HOLSTON COA GCN SPECIES (TN)
Taxa Group	**Scientific & Common Names**
Amphibian	Cryptobranchus alleganiensis (Hellbender)
Bat	Myotis grisescens (Gray Bat)
Bat	Myotis septentrionalis (Northern Myotis)
Bat	Myotis sodalis (Indiana Bat)
Bat	Perimyotis subflavus (Tri-colored Bat)
Bird	Accipiter striatus (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	Ammodramus savannarum (Grasshopper Sparrow)
Bird	Anas rubripes (American Black Duck)
Bird	Aquila chrysaetos (Golden Eagle)
Bird	Bartramia longicauda (Upland Sandpiper)
Bird	Bonasa umbellus (Ruffed Grouse)
Bird	Caprimulgus carolinensis (Chuck-will's-widow)
Bird	Caprimulgus vociferus (Whip-poor-will)
Bird	Cardellina canadensis (Canada Warbler)
Bird	Chaetura pelagica (Chimney Swift)
Bird	Chordeiles minor (Common Nighthawk)
Bird	Circus cyaneus (Northern Harrier)
Bird	Cistothorus platensis (Sedge Wren)
Bird	Colinus virginianus (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	Empidonax minimus (Least Flycatcher)
Bird	Empidonax traillii (Willow Flycatcher)
Bird	Euphagus carolinus (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	Geothlypis Formosa (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	Grus americana (Whooping Crane)
Bird	Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Bird	Helmitheros vermivorum (Worm-eating Warbler)
Bird	Hylocichla mustelina (Wood Thrush)
Bird	Icteria virens (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Bird	Icterus spurius (Orchard Oriole)
Bird	Ictinia mississippiensis (Mississippi Kite)
Bird	Lanius ludovicianus (Loggerhead Shrike)
Bird	Limnothlypis swainsonii (Swainson's Warbler)
Bird	Melanerpes erythrocephalus (Red-headed Woodpecker)
Bird	Nycticorax nycticorax (Black-crowned Night-heron)
Bird	Parkesia motacilla (Louisiana Waterthrush)
Bird	Protonotaria citrea (Prothonotary Warbler)
Bird	Riparia riparia (Bank Swallow)
Bird	Scolopax minor (American Woodcock)
Bird	Setophaga cerulea (Cerulean Warbler)
Bird	Setophaga discolor (Prairie Warbler)
Bird	Setophaga dominica (Yellow-throated Warbler)
Bird	Setophaga fusca (Blackburnian Warbler)
Bird	Sitta pusilla (Brown-headed Nuthatch)
Bird	Sturnella magna (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	Tyto alba (Barn Owl)
Bird	Vermivora chrysoptera (Golden-winged Warbler)
Bird	Vermivora cyanoptera (Blue-winged Warbler)
Bivalve	Lampsilis abrupta (Pink Mucket)
Bivalve	Plethobasus cyphyus (Sheepnose)
Bivalve	Pleurobema rubrum (Pyramid Pigtoe)
Bivalve	Pleuronaia barnesiana (Tennessee Pigtoe)
Bivalve	Villosa iris (Rainbow)

	LOWER HOLSTON COA GCN SPECIES (TN)
Taxa Group	**Scientific & Common Names**
Crustacean	Orconectes forceps (Surgeon Crayfish)
Fish	Acipenser fulvescens (Lake Sturgeon)
Fish	Chrosomus tennesseensis (Tennessee Dace)
Fish	Percina tanasi (Snail Darter)
Insect	Gomphus consanguis (Cherokee Clubtail)
Reptile	Terrapene carolina (Eastern Box Turtle)
Subterranean - Amphibian	Gyrinophilus gulolineatus (Berry Cave Salamander)
Subterranean - Amphibian	Gyrinophilus palleucus (Tennessee Cave Salamander)
Subterranean - Arachnid	Nesticus tennesseensis ((a spider))
Subterranean - Crustacean	Amerigoniscus nicholasi ((a cave obligate isopod))
Subterranean - Crustacean	Caecidotea sp. (cave isopods)
Subterranean - Crustacean	Crangonyx antennatus (Appalachian cave amphipod)
Subterranean - Crustacean	Stygobromus mackini (Southwestern Virginia Cave Amphipod)
Subterranean - Insect	Batriasymmodes spelaeus ((a cave obligate beetle))
Subterranean - Insect	Batrisodes specus ((a beetle))
Subterranean - Insect	Litocampa cookei (Cooke's Cave Dipluran)

LOWER HOLSTON COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	**Total acres of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat**
Natural habitats	
Southern Ridge and Valley / Cumberland Dry Calcareous Forest	28674
South-Central Interior Mesophytic Forest	12602
Southern Appalachian Low-Elevation Pine Forest	7299
Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and Woodland	4046
South-Central Interior Small Stream and Riparian	3299
Appalachian (Hemlock)-Northern Hardwood Forest	357
South-Central Interior Large Floodplain	209
Southern and Central Appalachian Cove Forest	100
Southern Appalachian Montane Pine Forest and Woodland	97
Semi-natural habitats	
Old Field / Successional	11186
Pasture	8610
Cropland	492
Aquatic Habitat Type	**Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat**
Headwaters & Streams	26
Medium River	53