Roaring River

Conservation Opportunity Area

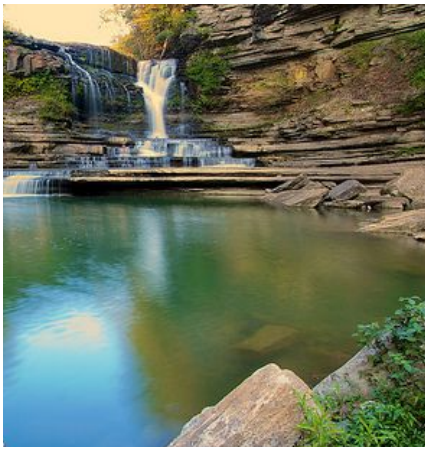
The Roaring River Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) contains three of the thirteen State Scenic Rivers in Tennessee: Blackburn Fork State Scenic River, Roaring River State Scenic River, and Spring Creek State Scenic River. These scenic rivers all flow from headwater streams on the Highland Rim before dropping into the Nashville basin to the west and converging with the Cumberland River. This high gradient drop in elevation renders these rivers prone to flood events. Several state species of Greatest Conservation Need (GCN) and federally endangered mussels occur within this COA. Many of the riparian areas along tributary streams within the COA are used for agriculture -- both row crops and pasture.

Hellbenders have been documented in this conservation opportunity area, but populations of this species are almost certainly in decline. Multiple species of mussels and GCN species of fish are located within the numerous streams and rivers; these include the Redlips Darter, Rosyface Shiner, Cumberland Moccasinshell and Painted Creekshell Mussels.

Opportunities to improve riparian buffers exist on the State Scenic Rivers, at the confluence with the Cumberland River, and other smaller tributaries. Improving water quality, and specifically reducing sedimentation, is essential for the persistence of several sensitive aquatic species and is the primary objective of this COA. The occurrence of small dams within the COA decreases connectivity of the river and eliminates movement of animals both upstream and downstream.

Public Lands within the COA

Blackburn Fork Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Blackburn Fork State Scenic River, Cordell Hull WMA, Cummins Fall State Park, Roaring River State Scenic River, Spring Creek State Scenic River, The Boils, Washmorgan Hollow State Natural Area



Three of Tennessee's 13 State Scenic Rivers flow from headwater streams on the Highland Rim before dropping into the Nashville basin.

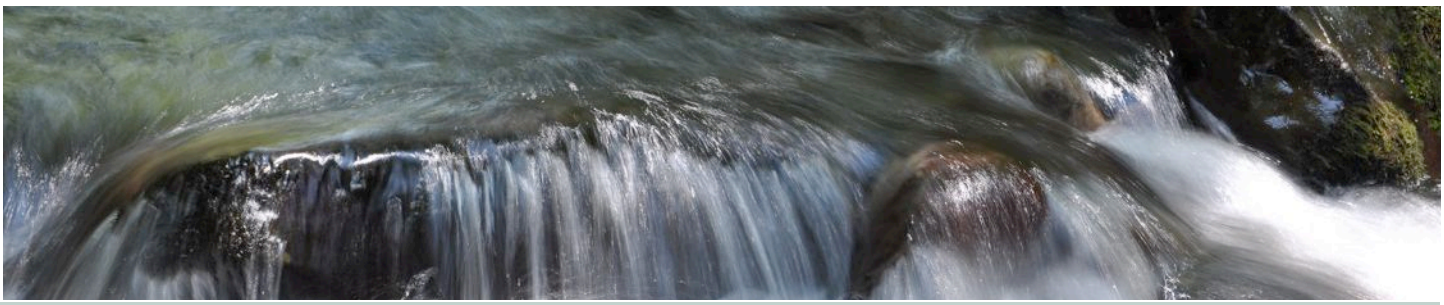
Top to bottom: Cummins Falls on the Roaring River State Scenic River - Brenton Rogers; Highland Rim stream - Hunter Desportes/ next page: Researchers surveying for Hellbenders in the Roaring River - Chris Simspon, TWRA; Clear flowing stream - Greg Wathen, TWRA

Roaring River
Conservation Opportunity Area

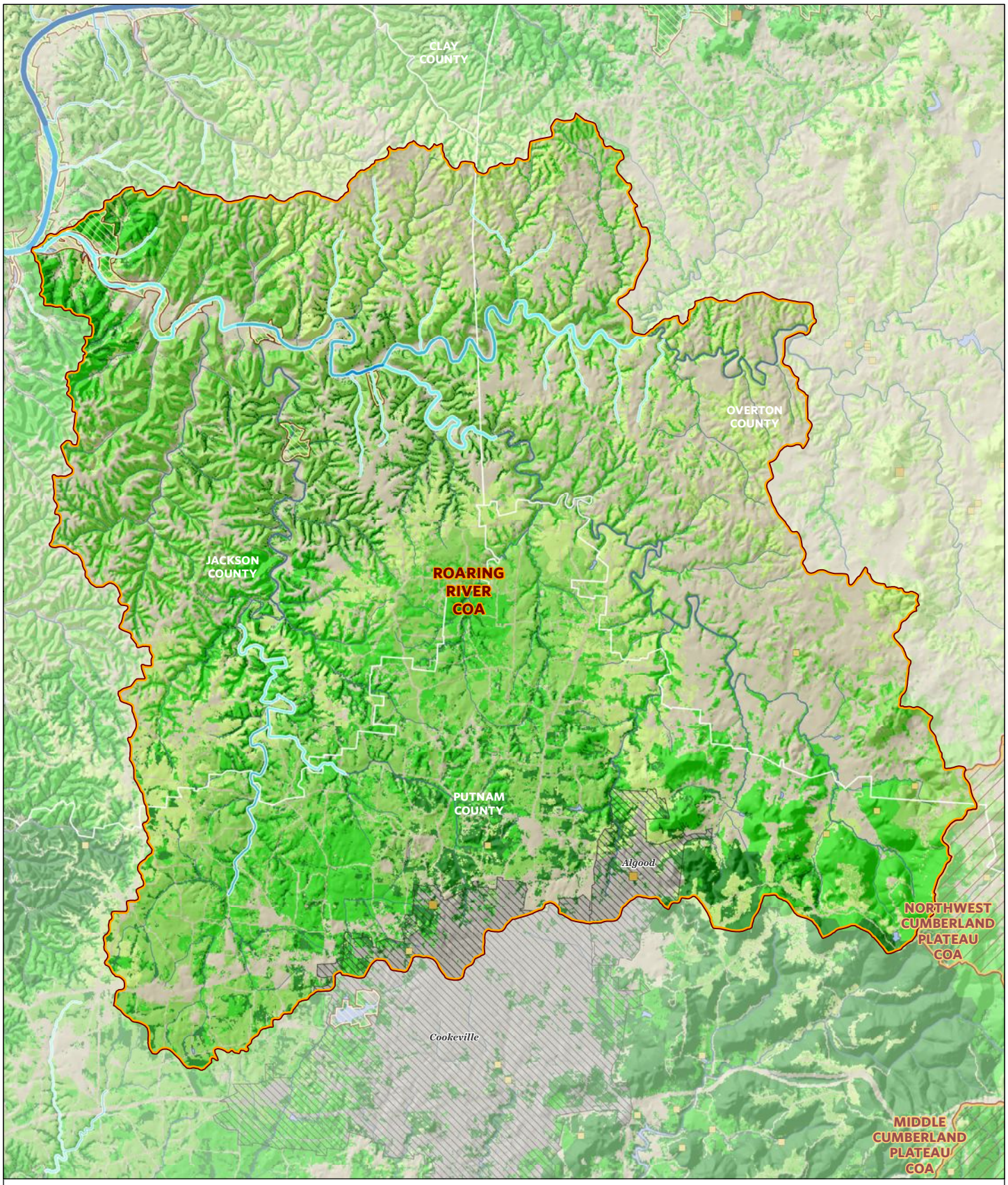
Partnerships

TWRA will partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Dept. of Environment and Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, and watershed groups to remove low head dams and other artificial barriers from Cumberland River tributaries. Dam removal from State Scenic Rivers will help fulfill the intent of the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 to reclaim Tennessee's diminishing resource of free-flowing rivers. Partnerships will also be developed with willing private land owners to restore and improve riparian buffers and water quality.

	Desired Change	Units
+	Use government funded incentive programs to encourage willing private landowners to restore critical land units and protect aquatic resources.	numbers
+	Restore pasture or other agricultural lands to appropriate ecological systems.	acres
+	Improve knowledge of the geographical distribution of GCN species and/or habitat changes through scientific surveys.	projects
+	Restore in-stream flows to impounded streams within critical units of aquatic habitat.	miles
+	Increase acres under permanent conservation management in critical units of habitat.	acres
−	Remove lowhead dams and other obstructions to reclaim free-flowing waters.	structures



To learn more about the Roaring River Conservation Opportunity Area, please contact:
Chris Simpson, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Region 3 (931) 484-9571



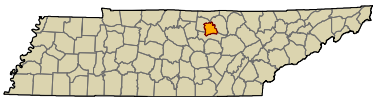
N

0 1 2 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.

	ROARING RIVER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)
Taxa Group	**Scientific & Common names**
Amphibian	Aneides aeneus (Green Salamander)
Amphibian	Hemidactylium scutatum (Four-toed Salamander)
Bat	Corynorhinus rafinesquii (Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat)
Bat	Myotis grisescens (Gray Bat)
Bat	Myotis lucifugus (Little Brown Bat)
Bat	Myotis septentrionalis (Northern Myotis)
Bat	Perimyotis subflavus (Tri-colored Bat)
Bird	Accipiter striatus (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	Ammodramus henslowii (Henslow's Sparrow)
Bird	Ammodramus savannarum (Grasshopper Sparrow)
Bird	Anas rubripes (American Black Duck)
Bird	Aquila chrysaetos (Golden Eagle)
Bird	Asio flammeus (Short-eared Owl)
Bird	Bonasa umbellus (Ruffed Grouse)
Bird	Botaurus lentiginosus (American Bittern)
Bird	Calidris mauri (Western Sandpiper)
Bird	Calidris pusilla (Semipalmated Sandpiper)
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	Egretta caerulea (Little Blue Heron)
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	Ixobrychus exilis (Least Bittern)
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	Pluvialis dominica (American Golden Plover)
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)

	ROARING RIVER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)
Taxa Group	**Scientific & Common names**
Bird	Sturnella magna (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	Thryomanes bewickii (Bewick's Wren)
Bird	Tyto alba (Barn Owl)
Bird	Vermivora chrysoptera (Golden-winged Warbler)
Bird	Vermivora cyanoptera (Blue-winged Warbler)
Bivalve	Medionidus conradicus (Cumberland Moccasinshell)
Bivalve	Villosa taeniata (Painted Creekshell)
Fish	Crystallaria cincotta (Diamond Darter)
Fish	Etheostoma maydeni (Redlips Darter)
Fish	Notropis rubellus (Rosyface Shiner)
Mammal	Neotoma magister (Allegheny Woodrat)
Mammal	Neotoma magister (Allegheny Woodrat)
Plant	Juglans cinerea (Butternut)
Plant	Lilium canadense (Canada Lily)
Plant	Panax quinquefolius (American Ginseng)
Plant	Trillium pusillum (Least Trillium)
Subterranean - Amphibian	Gyrinophilus palleucus (Tennessee Cave Salamander)
Subterranean - Arachnid	Calymmaria persica (Cave-loving funnel-web spider)
Subterranean - Arachnid	Kleptochthonius pluto ((a cave obligate pseudoscorpion))
Subterranean - Arachnid	Liocranoides tennesseensis (Tennessee two-clawed spider)
Subterranean - Arachnid	Meta ovalis (American cave orb weaver)
Subterranean - Arachnid	Nesticus stygius ((a cave obligate spider))
Subterranean - Crustacean	Caecidotea bicrenata bicrenata ((a cave obligate isopod))
Subterranean - Crustacean	Caecidotea stygia ((a cave obligate isopod))
Subterranean - Crustacean	Cambarus tenebrosus (Cavespring Crayfish)
Subterranean - Crustacean	Orconectes australis (Southern Cave Crayfish)
Subterranean - Crustacean	Stygobromus exilis (Central Kentucky Cave Obligate)
Subterranean - Crustacean	Stygobromus sp. 24 ((a cave obligate amphipod))
Subterranean - Fish	Typhlichthys subterraneus (Southern Cavefish)
Subterranean - Gastropod	Helicodiscus barri (Raccoon Coil)
Subterranean - Gastropod	Helicodiscus hadenoecus (Cricket Coil)
Subterranean - Insect	Arrhopalites marshalli (Marshall's Cave Springtail)
Subterranean - Insect	Atheta troglophila ((a troglophilic rove beetle))
Subterranean - Insect	Batrisodes pannosus ((a cave obligate beetle))
Subterranean - Insect	Ceuthophilus stygius (cave cricket)
Subterranean - Insect	Hadenoecus opilionides ((a cave obligate cricket))
Subterranean - Insect	Litocampa cookei (Cooke's Cave Dipluran)
Subterranean - Insect	Megaselia cavernicola (cave hump-backed fly)
Subterranean - Insect	Nelsonites walteri ((a cave obligate beetle))
Subterranean - Insect	Platynus tenuicollis (ground beetle)
Subterranean - Insect	Pseudanophthalmus beakleyi ((a cave obligate beetle))
Subterranean - Insect	Pseudanophthalmus robustus ((a cave obligate beetle))
Subterranean - Insect	Pseudanophthalmus valentinei ((a cave obligate beetle))
Subterranean - Insect	Psyllipsocus ramburi ((a cave barklice))
Subterranean - Insect	Rhadine caudata (ground beetle)
Subterranean - Insect	Spelobia tenebrarum (Cave dung fly)
Subterranean - Insect	Tomocerus bidentatus (Two-toothed springtail)
Subterranean - Millipede	Pseudotremia manni (Mann's Cave Millipede)
Subterranean - Millipede	Scoterpes ventus (Eastern Tennessee Cave Millipede)

ROARING RIVER COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	**Total acres of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat**
Natural habitats	
South-Central Interior Mesophytic Forest	17454
Southern Interior Low Plateau Dry-Mesic Oak Forest	13726
Southern Ridge and Valley / Cumberland Dry Calcareous Forest	4784
South-Central Interior Small Stream and Riparian	2689
Allegheny-Cumberland Dry Oak Forest and Woodland	347
Appalachian (Hemlock)-Northern Hardwood Forest	88
Southern Appalachian Low-Elevation Pine Forest	67
Semi-natural habitats	
Pasture	2733
Cropland	1818
Old Field / Successional	958
Aquatic Habitat Type	**Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat**
Small River	1