

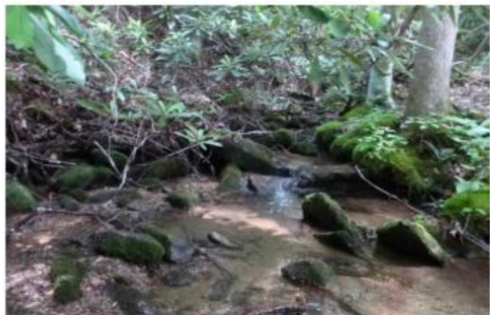
We plan to create a short nature trail on the property next spring.  
Watch for volunteer updates!

## HIGHLANDS OF ROAN FOCUS AREA BIG ROCK CREEK III

**We recently purchased 21 wooded acres just south of the TN border in Mitchell County, which helps connect our existing Big Rock Creek Preserve with Pisgah National Forest.**



“This is another Roan success story that protects habitat for birds and native trout – with the added benefit of providing access and educational opportunities for connecting people with land,” says Roan Stewardship Director Marquette Crockett.



Headwater streams on the property flow into Big Rock Creek.

The tract contains headwater streams that flow into Big Rock Creek, designated as Trout Waters by the NC Division of Environmental Quality. Located less than a mile from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT), it adjoins our Big Rock Creek Preserve and shares over 1,700 feet of boundary with Pisgah National Forest. Our purchase of the property will help protect a buffer for the AT and could eventually provide access to the Trail from our Big Rock Creek Preserve through Pisgah National Forest.

“We look forward to allowing schools, scouts, and other groups

in the surrounding communities to visit this property for educational opportunities,” said Crockett.

Elevations on the property rise up to 3,720 feet, providing important habitat for higher elevation species.

“The tract contains mature forest that provides excellent bird habitat for neotropical migratory warblers,” added Crockett. “Some migratory songbirds prefer early successional habitat, but many species need mature, old forest like this — including Hermit thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Ovenbird.”

We are grateful to Brad and Shelli Stanback for making a generous gift that made this acquisition possible.

We plan to create a short nature trail on the property next spring, and will be hosting a volunteer work day in partnership with the National Parks Conservation Association. Look for details in future announcements!



The tract contains mature forest habitat favored by some migratory songbirds.

