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## **Kentucky Natural Lands Trust Celebrates White House Report on Land Conservation**

*Berea, Kentucky* – President Obama introduced the landmark *America’s Great Outdoors Report* at a reception on February 16, 2011 at The White House. The report proposes the extension of the enhanced tax incentive for conservation easement donations beyond 2011, fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and focuses a portion of the LWCF on innovative projects that support urban parks, community green spaces and large-scale land conservation.

The report’s vision statement described a future in which “Rural lands – our working farms, ranches and forests – are conserved and restored through local partnerships.”

Kentucky Natural Lands Trust works with private landowners to keep farm and forest lands in productive use, protect important fish and wildlife habitat and conserve Kentucky’s scenic and historic heritage. KNLT also works in partnership with state and federal agencies to achieve these goals.

KNLT has purchased 3,720 acres, added more than 390 acres protected by voluntary conservation agreements with private landowners and additionally protected more than 2,000 acres. KNLT is currently working on 12 new projects in Bell, Whitley, Bullitt, Letcher, Harlan and Oldham counties.

### About Kentucky Natural Lands Trust

KNLT is a statewide land trust committed to preserving our diminishing natural places, protecting our rich biodiversity and ensuring a future that will continue to inspire new generations of environmental stewards.

Beginning in 1995, KNLT’s Pine Mountain Wildlife Corridor and Blanton Forest Projects in eastern Kentucky were designed to help protect and steward sensitive ecological areas, including necessary buffer land, created an ecological corridor of protected and sustainably managed land, engaged a broad cross-section of landowners in conversations about the future of Pine Mountain and Blanton Forest and provided landowners with information about stewardship and restoration.

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