

Cave Fork Recreational Preserve Community Forest Project

Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition

We are dedicated to securing and protecting open, public access to rock climbing in the Red River Gorge area of Kentucky and promoting conservation on the lands where we climb.



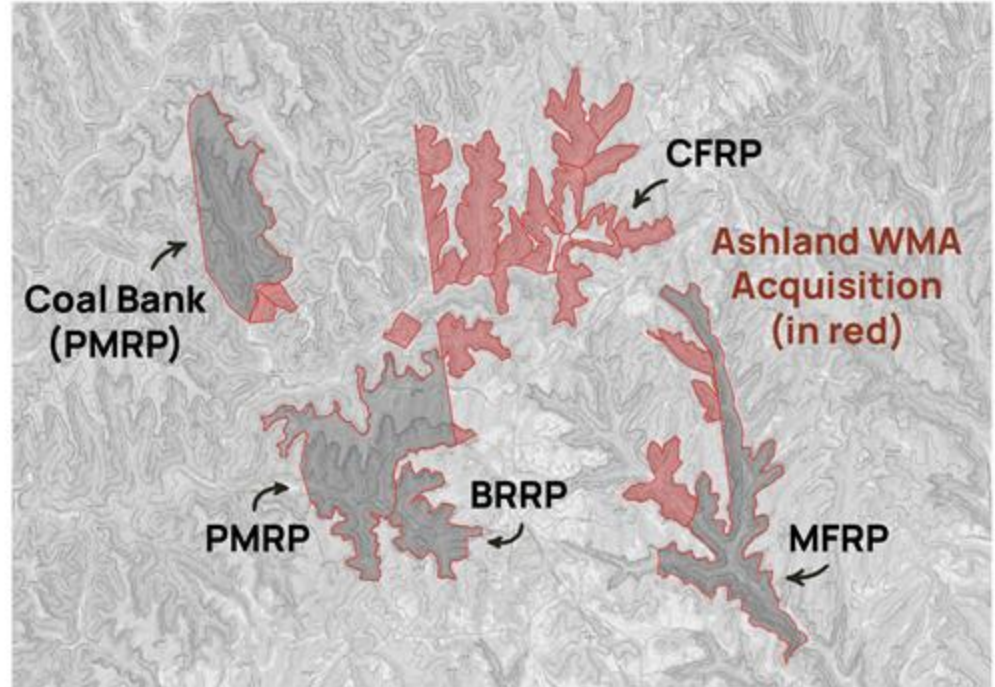
The Property - Cave Fork Recreational Preserve

- Located in Lee County, KY
- Economically depressed area in the heart of former extractive economy
- The property was first owned by Ashland Oil and then became the state managed Ashland WMA before being listed for sale
- Unique geology makes it an ideal climbing location
- Tourism in the area has increased dramatically since 2020



The Property - Cave Fork Recreational Preserve

- 718 acres purchased by the RRGCC of which 567 are part of the CFP
- Brought the total acreage owned by the RRGCC up to ~1,800 (owned and managed > 2,000 acres)
- Created a new, standalone property (CFRP) and also added to existing properties (MFRP/PMRP/BRRP)
- The RRGCC manages more forest than any org in the area with the exception of the USFS



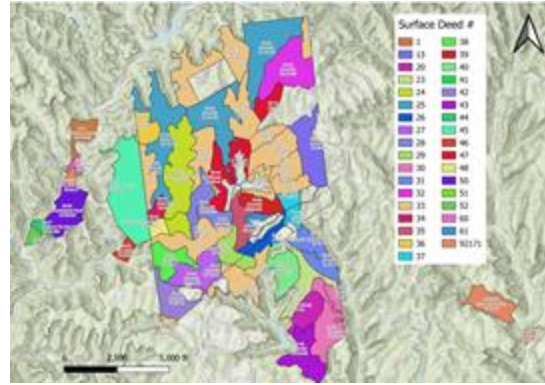
Property Usage - Open and Public Access to Rock Climbing

- Visitors come from around the world to climb here
- Climbing's economic impact is growing exponentially
- Climbing uses a small percentage of the property
- The rest is for conservation, research, and human-powered recreation
- The RRGCC builds and maintains the trails
- We host events for climbers and locals



Funding The Largest Climbing Acquisition in US History

- Seller wanted a single transaction
- Listed at roughly \$12 million for ~2,300 acres
- Severed mineral rights, unclear deeds, and 30+ tracts complicated it
- Traditional funding was not possible, had to get creative
- Over twenty entities funded the project (USFWS, KNLT, JGBF)
- Various entities valued specific properties (cliffline, views, habitat etc)
- The RRGCC managed the entire process, from appraisal to closeout



A person is seen from behind, climbing a large, vertical rock face. The rock has a layered, textured appearance with various shades of brown, tan, and grey. The climber is wearing a blue t-shirt, dark shorts, and a climbing harness. They are using their hands and feet to grip the rock. A red rope is visible, extending from the climber down towards the bottom right. The background shows some green foliage and trees.

Questions?

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