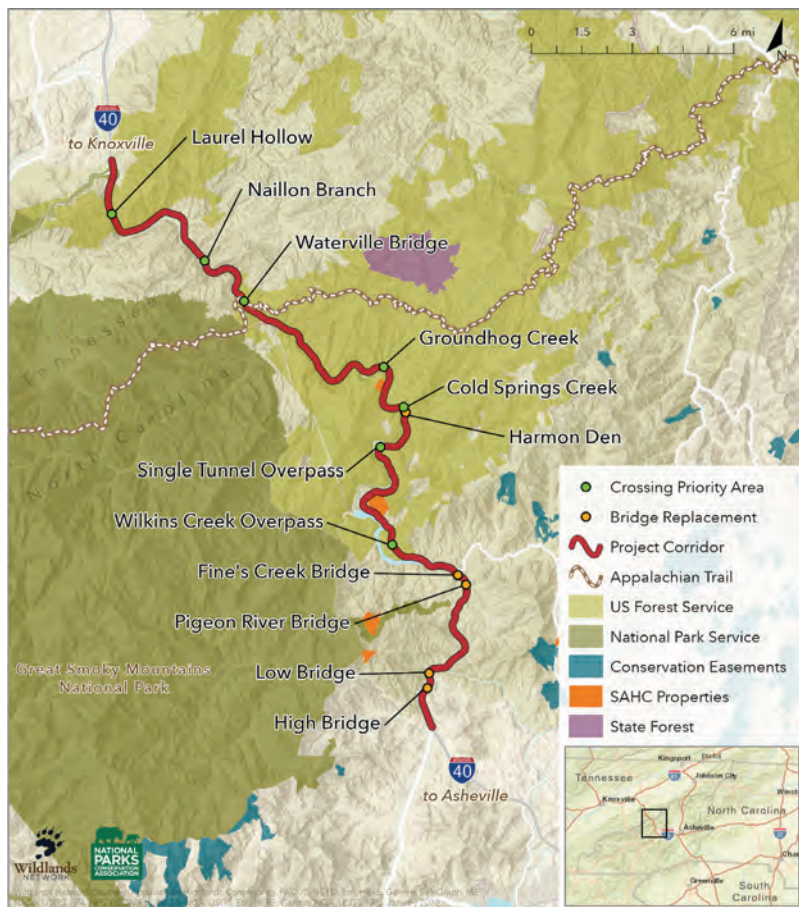


Improving Wildlife Connectivity and Human Safety along I-40 in the Pigeon River Gorge

- Roads are one of the most significant and lethal barriers to wildlife movement around the world. In the face of climate change and biodiversity loss, it's critical that native species be allowed room to roam and safely pass across highways.
- **The Pigeon River Gorge**, where Interstate 40 winds through the forests near Great Smoky Mountains National Park, is a national priority site for mitigating wildlife-vehicle collisions.
- Experts at **Wildlands Network** and the **National Parks Conservation Association** have used camera trapping, GPS tracking, and other methods to study wildlife in the Pigeon River Gorge area for years.
- Our research **identifies wildlife hotspots and outlines priority recommendations** for construction. We show where road crossing structures like overpasses or fencing could be implemented or upgraded to **reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and increase wildlife habitat connectivity**.
- This is **one of the largest road ecology research projects ever completed** in the eastern United States. Our goal is to help experts like the North Carolina and Tennessee Departments of Transportation keep highways safer for drivers and wildlife alike.



Priority project and bridge replacement areas in the Pigeon River Gorge.

[Read the report](#)

