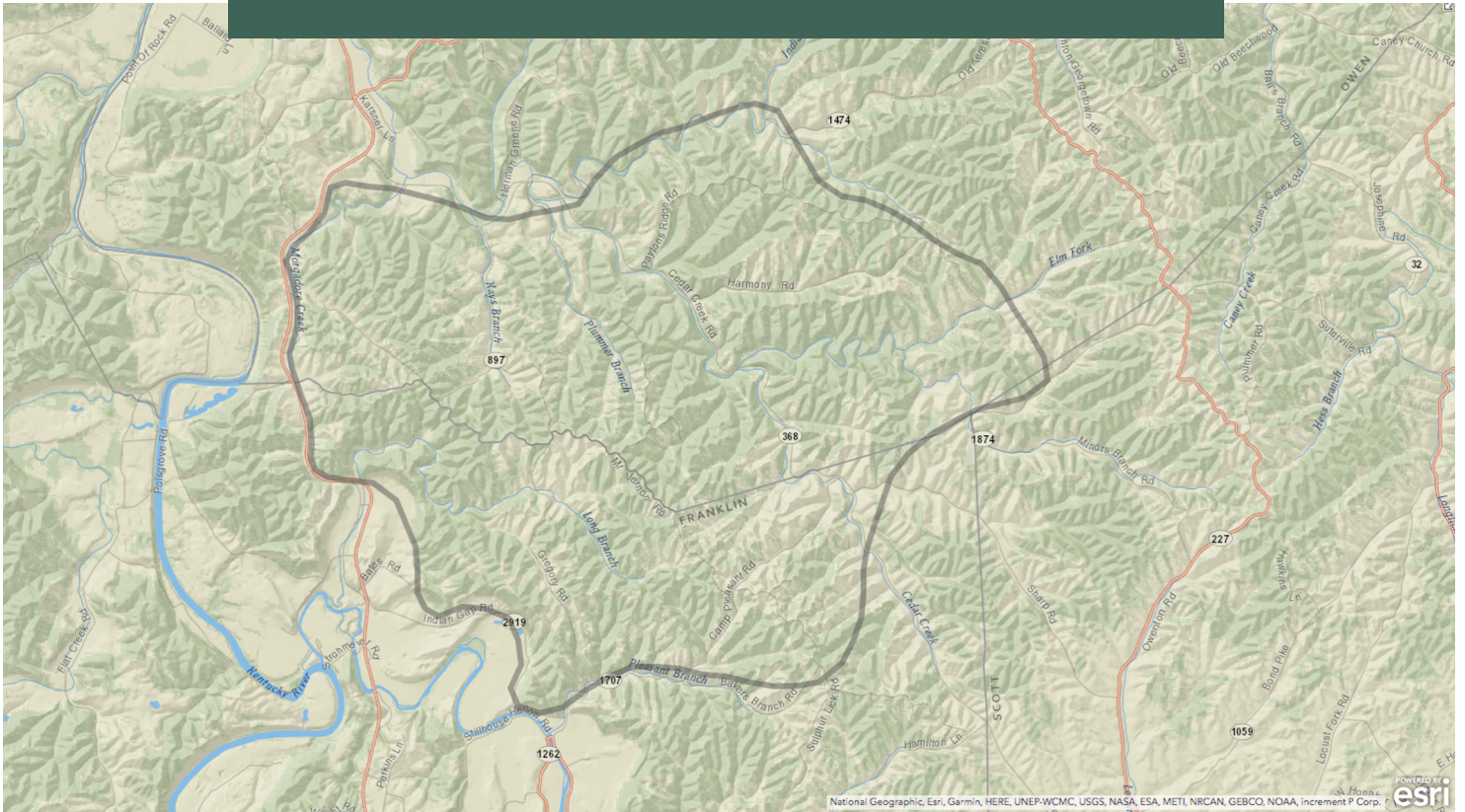


# LONG BRANCH PRIORITY AREA



## WHY IS LAND CONSERVATION IMPORTANT IN THE LONG BRANCH PRIORITY AREA?

There are 9,000 acres of continuous forest in the Long Branch area! For the Bluegrass region that is exceptional. It is important because the more forest in a watershed, the better the water quality in the streams and river. Forest prevents sediment, the number one pollutant in our waters, from washing into streams and the river. Forest also prevents flooding by slowing down runoff.

Large forests support a great diversity of wildlife and some animals rely on large forests. Forests provide diverse food sources and safe habitat for birds, particularly when they're nesting or migrating. Connections between forests help wildlife maintain healthy populations.

The biggest threat to our forests is the increase in pest plants. These aggressive plants reduce tree reproduction and habitat quality. Large forests resist pest plant invasion because they have less edge next to disturbed areas..

The Long Branch Priority Area has a concentration of large forests and other biologically significant features. As noted on the map, the area generally extends from Camp Pleasant to Cedar Creek

## HOW DOES LAND CONSERVATION BENEFIT LANDOWNERS AND THE COMMUNITY?

- Protects water and air quality
- Stabilizes property values
- Preserves the character of the region
- Reduces flooding from rain events
- Ensures recreational opportunities
- Provides corridors for wildlife movement and habitat quality

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