



Contact:

Jess Hair
Communications & Marketing Manager
FIND Outdoors
828-553-4049
jess@gofindoutdoors.org

For Immediate Release

March 28, 2025

The Cradle of Forestry Partners with CASP and US Forest Service for Critical Maintenance and Repairs

Pisgah Forest, NC – January 2025 – The Cradle of Forestry in America, and the U.S. Forest Service – Pisgah Ranger District, are pleased to announce a collaboration with the Conservative Anabaptist Service Program (CASP) to complete deferred maintenance and Hurricane Helene-related repairs at the historic Cradle of Forestry site.

This initiative is the latest chapter in a partnership between the Cradle of Forestry and CASP that spans over 15 years. CASP, a faith-based volunteer program of Conservative Anabaptist communities, provides alternative places of employment for conscientious objectors to serve, should the U.S. government activate a military draft. This partnership provides skilled labor, such as carpenters and masons to assist with maintenance and construction projects. Work will commence in February and is expected to span approximately one month, during which time CASP volunteers will be housed on-site at the Cradle of Forestry.

"The dedication and craftsmanship of the CASP volunteers are instrumental in helping us address critical repairs and maintenance," said Carolyn Ashworth, President and CEO of FIND Outdoors. "Their long-standing partnership with the Cradle of Forestry exemplifies the power of collaboration to overcome challenges and sustain this treasured site."

The work planned for February includes repairing damage caused by Hurricane Helene, addressing infrastructure needs, and improving facilities to ensure the site's continued accessibility and safety for visitors. Some of the planned projects for 2025 include: repairing the boardwalks along the Pink Beds trail and throughout the Cradle campus,



rebuilding the log loader and corresponding viewing deck, pouring concrete for curb repairs and more. CASP volunteers will work closely with FIND Outdoors and U.S. Forest Service staff to complete these essential projects.

"The Cradle of Forestry is a symbol of conservation and stewardship, and the work we're undertaking this February is critical to preserving its legacy," said Dave Casey, U.S. Forest Service District Ranger. "We are deeply grateful to CASP for their partnership and to FIND Outdoors for their leadership in operating this extraordinary site."

For more information about the Cradle of Forestry, visit gofindoutdoors.org/cradle-of-forestry

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About the Cradle of Forestry

The Cradle of Forestry, nestled in the heart of Pisgah National Forest, is the birthplace of modern forestry in America. Established to commemorate the first forestry school in the United States, founded by Dr. Carl A. Schenck in 1898, the site preserves the legacy of forest conservation and education. Managed by FIND Outdoors under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, the Cradle of Forestry continues to serve as a vital educational resource, connecting visitors to the history and importance of sustainable forest management.

About FIND Outdoors

FIND Outdoors is the Southeast's leading provider of public land access, offering exceptional recreational experiences to inspire people to connect with nature. With well-managed outdoor recreation sites, campgrounds, visitor centers, guided tours, and educational opportunities for all ages and abilities, FIND Outdoors strives to make nature accessible to all. The organization also manages retail outlets that offer forest-related gifts and souvenirs, nature-based activities for children, local crafts, and trail guides. FIND is an over 50 year-old 501(c)(3) tax deductible nonprofit based in Pisgah Forest, NC serving over one million visitors annually in four states: North Carolina, Georgia, and Kentucky.