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**CASP Completes Maintenance and Repairs in Pisgah National Forest
*3,190 Volunteer Hours Contributed***

Pisgah Forest, NC – March 2025 – The Cradle of Forestry in America, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, Pisgah Ranger District and the Conservative Anabaptist Service Program (CASP), have completed critical maintenance and repairs at the historic site. Over the past month, 27 CASP volunteers, from Pennsylvania & Iowa, worked alongside FIND Outdoors and U.S. Forest Service staff to restore and improve areas of the Cradle of Forestry and nearby public lands.

"Serving in both the Cradle of Forestry and the greater Pisgah National Forest has been a rewarding experience for our volunteers," said Zachary Zimmerman, CASP Project Leader. "Our mission is to serve communities across the country through meaningful projects, and this initiative exemplifies that commitment. By working alongside FIND Outdoors and the U.S. Forest Service, we were able to contribute our skills to the preservation of public lands."

To aid in the work, FIND Outdoors contributed over \$13,800 in funding for materials and supplies. The scope of the project included:

- Rebuilt the Log Loader, located on the Forest Festival Trail
- Replaced decking on bridges and boardwalks throughout the Cradle of Forestry campus
- Constructed a new bridge and repaired boardwalks along the Pink Beds Trail, in collaboration with The Pisgah Conservancy
- Conducted trail maintenance and repairs on the Estatoe Trail
- Repaired broken curbing
- Cleared all Cradle of Forestry campus trails of debris



- Landscaped and cleared invasive plants throughout the Cradle campus
- Performed cleaning and maintenance on the Discover Center and historical buildings throughout the Cradle of Forestry Campus

"The work completed by the CASP volunteers has been nothing short of extraordinary. Their dedication and craftsmanship has helped preserve this historic site for future generations," said Carolyn Ashworth, President and CEO of FIND Outdoors. "We are incredibly grateful for their efforts, which ensure that visitors can continue to learn about and appreciate the rich history of forestry in America."

With these essential repairs and improvements completed, the Cradle of Forestry remains a vital resource for visitors, educators, and conservationists alike. The partnership between FIND Outdoors, the U.S. Forest Service, and CASP continues to strengthen the site's mission of education, stewardship, and sustainability.

For more information about the Cradle of Forestry, visit www.cradleofforestry.com.

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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 three states: North Carolina, Georgia, and Kentucky.