### Project Overview & Outcomes

The Forest Investment Zone strategy was to invest in sustainable forestry and rural community development practices at the regional level to retain and restore healthy working forests, and provide multiple value streams which contribute to the economic health of forest-reliant communities. The underlying concept was that regional approaches are essential to local community economic vibrancy in a changing global marketplace. Forestry in the Central Appalachian Forest Zone is based on a small, almost exclusively family-forest ownership pattern. The AFZ was focused on increased, active forest management and developing a more coordinated and profitable forest value stream including forest certification, ecosystem services, non-timber forest products, and connecting wood products manufactures to green and regionally oriented wood markets.

- Created **WoodRight**, a regional sales and brokerage business for Central Appalachian sustainable wood products. Project remains in development stage.

- Established regional **Center for Forest Certification** at University of Kentucky to supply certification throughout wood products supply chain. The Center is considered a successful start-up.

- Created Appalachian Carbon Market to enroll forest owners in carbon offset program. Lack of legislative framework and changes in voluntary carbon markets made for a slow start. Met first steps to enter Verified Carbon Standard. Will continue to offer offset sales and hope to enroll more landowners.

- Successfully supported landowners in management of Non-Timber Forest Products. Continues to advocate for supportive state policy for Non-Timber Forest Products.