



**PATH FOUNDATION**

**For Immediate Release:**

**Dragonfly and Damselfly Survey on the Bull Run Mountains**

Bull Run Mountains Conservancy (BRMC) is excited to announce that with generous support from the PATH Foundation, we have begun work for our summer 2018 research project, a Survey of Dragonfly and Damselfly Fauna of the Bull Run Mountains.

BRMC, in partnership with the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage (VDNH), is conducting a rigorous dragonfly and damselfly (members of the order Odonata) survey of this important insect group. This is the first survey of this order done on the Bull Run Mountains, which is an important biodiversity corridor in Virginia.

This survey will have citizen science opportunities for students and adults and be featured in BRMC's 2018/19 education programs for all ages. In addition, we will be giving out 200 dragonfly and damselfly identification pocket naturalist laminated field guides to program and research participants.

Virginia supports the "second-most diverse Odonate fauna in the United States, with a total of 196 species recorded, including 140 dragonflies and 56 damselflies" (Steve Roble, Zoologist, VDNH). These species are critical members of local ecosystems, predators of many smaller insects including mosquitoes, and indicators of water quality and pollutants. Despite their importance, no survey has cataloged the Odonata species on the Bull Run Mountains. This information is necessary to make land management and conservation decisions that protect and conserve the beloved Piedmont feature that the Mountains are in our community.

Results from this survey will be published as Technical Reports by VDNH and shared on the BRMC website ([www.brmconservancy.org/research](http://www.brmconservancy.org/research)). A teaching collection will be created and used to complement various BRMC public workshops. VDNH scientists will present their results through the BRMC Speaker Series, giving our community a first-hand (and free of charge) look at the methods and results of this work. BRMC's Youth Outdoors Program will also incorporate a dragonfly and damselfly portion into our 2018/19 curriculum, and local children will learn about these critical insects and their role in the landscape.

For more information about this project or for details on citizen science opportunities, please contact BRMC at 703-753-2631 or [info@brmconservancy.org](mailto:info@brmconservancy.org).