



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Wisconsin



*Young Forest Initiative focuses on ruffed grouse, golden-winged warbler, and American woodcock. All are in decline. Wisconsin has 22% of the global breeding population of this warbler. They need open areas, with young stands of aspen or alder. Young Wisconsin forest - photo credit Jim Oehler.*

## Wisconsin

# Young Forest Initiative

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers technical and financial assistance to forest landowners for conservation practices. The Young Forest Initiative is a special effort to build young forest habitat in Northern Wisconsin.

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, NRCS will help with projects that benefit wildlife, particularly bird species that are in decline, through the creation or improvement of young forest habitat. Three practices are eligible:

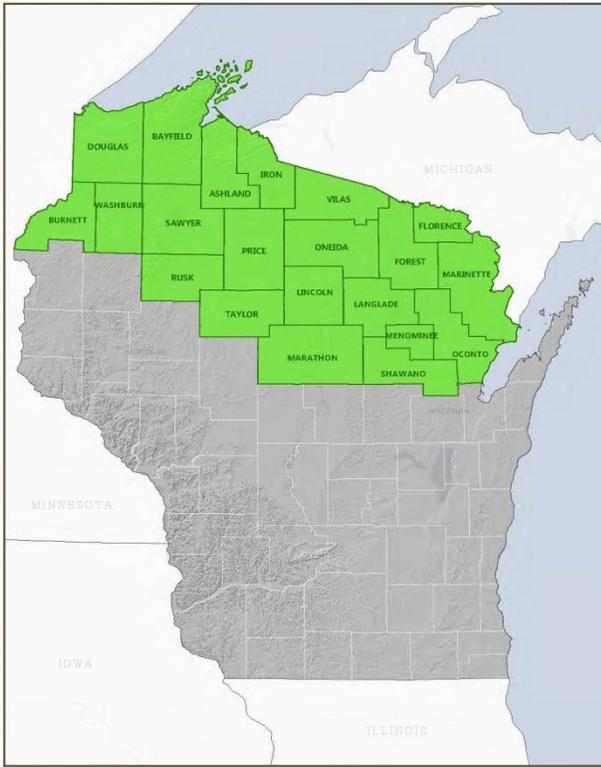
- Early Successional Habitat Development and Management
- Brush Management
- Forest Stand Improvement

Applicants with an existing forest management plan in place will be high priority for funding. To get started, contact your forester or other natural resources professional to complete or update your forest plan. Then contact your local NRCS office at the USDA Service Center for your county before July 11, to apply for EQIP.

Additional information about EQIP, including an application form, may be found at [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov)

Young Forest Initiative is built through the efforts of many northern Wisconsin partners for conservation. The goals are to:

- Increase the quantity of young forest
- Improve the quality of young forest



*Twenty-one counties in northern Wisconsin are eligible for the Young Forest Initiative.*

A young forest may include aspen, oak (less than 20 years post-harvest) alder (less than 10 years post-harvest), or other early successional species, with open areas that provide excellent habitat for a diverse mix of wildlife.

Contact your local NRCS office at the USDA Service Center for your county, or Tom Krapf, NRCS, at [Tom.krapf@wi.usda.gov](mailto:Tom.krapf@wi.usda.gov)

The Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership includes US Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, Wisconsin County Forests Association, American Bird Conservancy, Ruffed Grouse Society, Wildlife Management Institute, and other organizations.

*Langlade County forest harvest units, with multiple age-classes. In general, young forest habitat would maintain at least 20 percent of the area as young forest, defined as 20 years post-harvest.*

