

Working Lands for Wildlife

WLFW



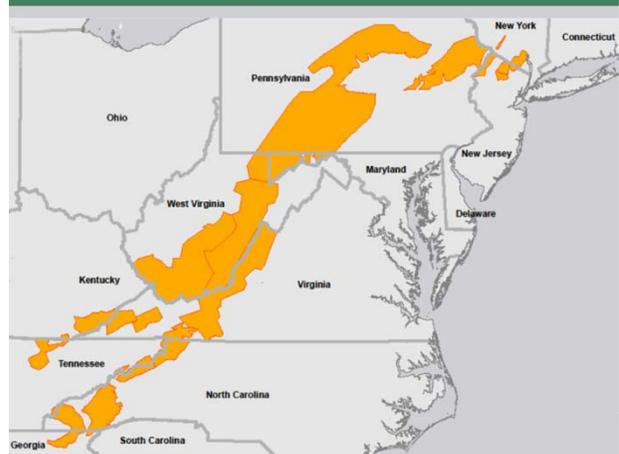
Golden-Winged Warbler

Listing Status: At-Risk

Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West

Focal Area Map

Golden-Winged Warbler



Background

The vast forested lands, grasslands and forb-rich landscape of the Appalachian Mountains was once considered a population stronghold for the golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). Today, however, the population is at-risk for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The most common explanations point to the loss and degradation of early successional habitat. Golden-winged warblers and many other species depend upon shrubby, idle vegetated areas like forest clear-cuts, alder swamps, utility rights-of way and other similar habitats for breeding. Several factors have contributed to the decline of these habitats including direct losses to development, re-forestation of farmland, fire suppression, and changes in agricultural and forestry practices.

The Appalachian region offers a tremendous opportunity to improve habitat for golden-winged warbler and other neotropical migratory birds. They provide structurally diverse vegetation for breeding and foraging, and offer the greatest opportunity to combat declines in golden-winged warbler.

Working Lands for Wildlife will assist private land owners create and maintain the habitat necessary to sustain breeding populations of golden-winged warbler within and adjacent to their current range. It focuses on the creation, management and maintenance of early successional habitat in close association with forested landscapes, or adjacent to active agriculture or pastureland. Conservation efforts in support of the golden-winged warbler will benefit several other species that depend on similar habitat.

Resource Concern	Total Acres Needing Treatment
Fish and Wildlife Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	9,500
Plant Condition Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats	500

Goals / Objectives

Working Lands for Wildlife will enable private landowners to create and enhance approximately 10,000 acres of early successional forest habitat over five years, precluding the need to federally list the golden-winged warbler.

Actions

- Restoration and maintenance of habitat supporting healthy, reproducing populations of golden-winged warbler in targeted areas in eight States.
- Increase cooperation with state wildlife agencies and bird conservation partnerships.
- Develop timber harvest technologies and forestry management strategies to support golden-winged warbler and other species sensitive to canopy closure.

Core Practices

643 Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats
 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
 647 Early Successional Habitat Development and Management

Supporting Practices

314 Brush Management
 315 Herbaceous Weed Control
 324 Deep Tillage
 327 Conservation Cover
 338 Prescribed Burning
 342 Critical Area Planting
 382 Fence
 386 Field Borders
 472 Access Control
 484 Mulching

490 Tree Shrub Site Preparation
 511 Forage Harvest Management
 512 Forage and Biomass Plantings
 528 Prescribed Grazing
 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment
 655 Forest Harvest Trails and Landings
 666 Forest Stand Improvement

Outcomes and Impacts

Working Lands for Wildlife will increase improve early successional habitat, decreasing habitat fragmentation and reducing isolation of golden-winged warbler populations. The result will be an expansion of Appalachian breeding habitat and an increase in reproducing golden-winged warbler populations, decreasing the potential for listing under the Endangered Species Act.



Partners