



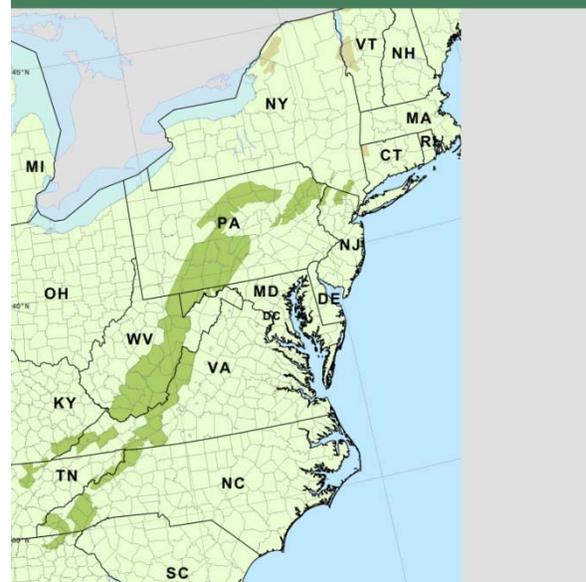
Golden-Winged Warbler

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

Listing Status: At-Risk

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, the species in the Appalachian region is considered to be at-risk, however has not been recognized as a candidate species.

The most common explanations point to the loss and degradation of early successional habitat. Golden-winged warblers and many other species depend upon shrubby, 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. These high elevation forests 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. 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 through actions that are designed to remove threats and reverse species declines.

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	Supporting Practices	
643 Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats	314 Brush Management	484 Mulching
645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	315 Herbaceous Weed Control	490 Tree Shrub Site Preparation
647 Early Successional Habitat Development and Management	324 Deep Tillage	511 Forage Harvest Management
	327 Conservation Cover	512 Forage and Biomass Plantings
	338 Prescribed Burning	528 Prescribed Grazing
	342 Critical Area Planting	612 Tree/Shrub Establishment
	382 Fence	655 Forest Harvest Trails and Landings
	386 Field Borders	666 Forest Stand Improvement
	394 Firebreak	
	472 Access Control	

Outcomes and Impacts

Working Lands for Wildlife will increase early successional habitat, decrease habitat fragmentation and reduce 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.. Additional species benefiting in this focal area are: wild turkey, ruffed grouse, American Woodcock, rabbit, and deer.

Partners

- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR)
- American Bird Conservancy – Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture
- US Department of Interior – Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI)
- Green Forests Work for Appalachia
- American Chestnut Foundation



Photo: Greg Lavaty

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