



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Improving Forest Health for At - Risk Wildlife Resources

The Improving Forest Health for At-Risk Wildlife Resources project is a special effort to build young forest habitat in the Upper Peninsula and designated northern Michigan counties. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, in close partnership with the American Bird Conservancy and other key partners, have teamed up to provide planning assistance and funding to offset landowner costs for conservation activities that target the golden-winged warbler and the Kirtland's Warbler and also benefit ruffed grouse, woodcock, and white-tailed deer.

This project is funded through the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program administered by NRCS. NRCS and partners will help with projects that benefit wildlife, particularly the golden-winged warbler and Kirtland's Warbler. These forest dependent birds are in decline and benefit from the creation or improvement of young forest habitat.

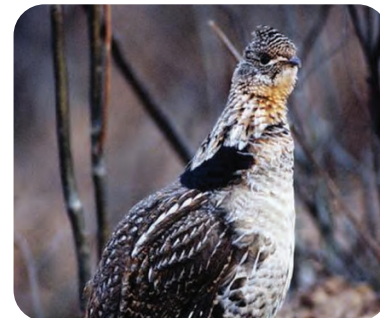
Landowners with extensive areas of alder growing along wetland areas or who have large blocks of even-aged aspen have the best opportunities to create young forest habitat. Young forest habitat improvements most commonly involve shearing alder stand and managing aspen stands for a mix of age classes. The creation of forest openings within those stands provides excellent habitat for a diverse mix of wildlife, including more wildlife edge, increased cover diversity, and additional wildlife food sources.

To get started, contact your local NRCS office or Michael Paling, partner biologist, at (906) 251-3065 or mpaling@abcbirds.org. Forest owners with an existing forest management plan in place will be a high priority for funding. Technical assistance for forest plan development is also available.

This RCPP project is built through the efforts of many Great Lakes partners for conservation. The goals are to increase the quantity and improve the quality of young forests. Michigan RCPP partners include the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, American Bird Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Conservation Fund, Ruffed Grouse Society, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan Tech University, Wildlife Management Institute, and other partner organizations.

Additional information about RCPP, including an application form and the location of your local NRCS office, may be found at www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov.

RCPP Forest Improvement Eligibility Area in Michigan



The Regional Conservation Partnership Program focuses on restoring habitat for the Golden Winged Warbler (top left), and the Kirtland's Warbler (top right). The project also benefits other wildlife species like the American Woodcock (bottom right), and the Ruffed Grouse (bottom right).