



United States Department of Agriculture

## JOINT CHIEFS' LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

# Neighbors Helping Neighbors

### TRIPLETT CREEK PROJECT



KENTUCKY

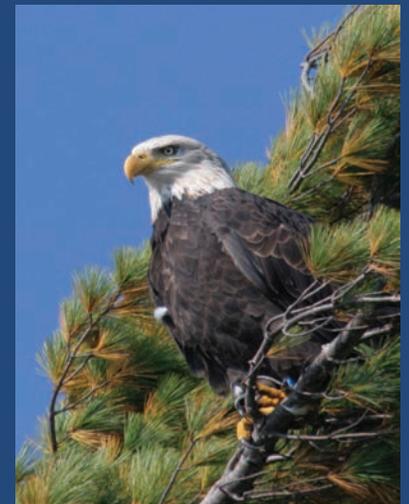


Triplett Creek Watershed

Black bear, peregrine falcons, white-tailed deer and eagles can be spotted on the steep forested slopes, sandstone cliffs and narrow ravines in the Triplett Creek watershed and Daniel Boone National Forest. Visitors from near and far travel here for hunting and fishing, rock climbing, horseback riding and other recreational activities, and many people live in homes adjacent to the national forest. Because so many people are drawn to the beauty and bounty of these forests and foothills, the area must be managed with a comprehensive and collaborative approach. This Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership (JCLRP) project was designed to build on strong relationships between agencies, partner organizations and landowners to prepare for wildfires, and inform and empower people to better manage their land and waters today and tomorrow.

### Triplett Creek Watershed

## GOALS



Bald Eagle



**Reduce wildfire threats:** Created forest management plans for more than 2,200 acres of private land. Landowner training and content in the Kentucky Woodlands Magazine shared best management practices to help people prepare their property for fire. This Joint Chiefs' project supported the installation of 5,505 feet of fencing to keep livestock away from 30 acres of forest land around sensitive streams. This has multiple benefits for all who rely on the Triplett Creek watershed.

### PROJECT IMPACT

# 1,700 STRUCTURES

Funding from this partnership enabled volunteer firefighters in one county to assess the fire risk and readiness of 1,700 structures through the Firewise program to heighten awareness of wildfire risks and help landowners create defensible spaces.

Total awarded through the JCLRP from 2014-2016: \$1.8 million

USDA's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service are working together to improve the health of forests where public forests and grasslands connect to privately owned lands. Through the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, the two USDA agencies are restoring landscapes by reducing wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protecting water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat.

# TRIPLETT CREEK PROJECT



Rattlesnake Master

Not too many people get excited over a plant with an ominous name like rattlesnake master. But Chris Minor, director of land management with The Nature Conservancy in Kentucky, knows that the plant—along with others, such as the blazing star and prairie dock—only occur in great densities in rare prairie-woodland habitat. When large populations of these and other uncommon plants were found on Walt Rybka's land, adjacent to the national forest, Minor saw the opportunity to improve the area for conservation and the community.

"The Nature Conservancy helped out on Walt's land years ago, but we didn't have funding to get quite where we thought it needed to be," Minor said. Funding from the Joint Chief's enabled partners like the Conservancy to create firebreaks and use controlled burns to reduce tree competition in prairie habitats and excessive buildup of fuel loads on private land. More resilient private lands around the forest mean that firefighters will be able to better contain wildfires.

Through the collaboration, Rybka, a self-taught naturalist, has become an ambassador for better forest management. He has shared his experiences in presentations to landowner groups to help others understand cost-share programs that will help them make their land and communities better prepared for wildfires.

"I work with pretty much all the partners that have anything to do with conservation in this area—landowners, government agencies, environmental groups—and none of us have the ability to do this work on our own," Minor said. "We must pool our resources and form partnerships to protect rare habitats and educate people about how to care for these places, so the remnants remain intact for future generations to enjoy."



Chris Minor © The Nature Conservancy

## Key Partners

Cranston Fire Department  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources  
Kentucky Division of Forestry  
Kentucky Woodland Magazine  
Morehead State University  
The Nature Conservancy  
University of Kentucky Forestry Extension  
Woodland Owners Short Course