



# GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

Status: At-risk

The golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) is a neotropical migratory songbird that breeds in young forests and shrubland habitats in the Appalachian Mountains and upper Great Lakes. During the past 50 years, this vibrant songbird has experienced significant population declines throughout much of its breeding range including its entire Appalachian Mountain range. The decline of this warbler reflects declines in forest health in the region.

Golden-winged warblers nest in early successional and young forest habitats. Forest health is key. While young forests provide important nesting habitat, recent studies reveal the species also uses a variety of other forest age classes for foraging and brood rearing.

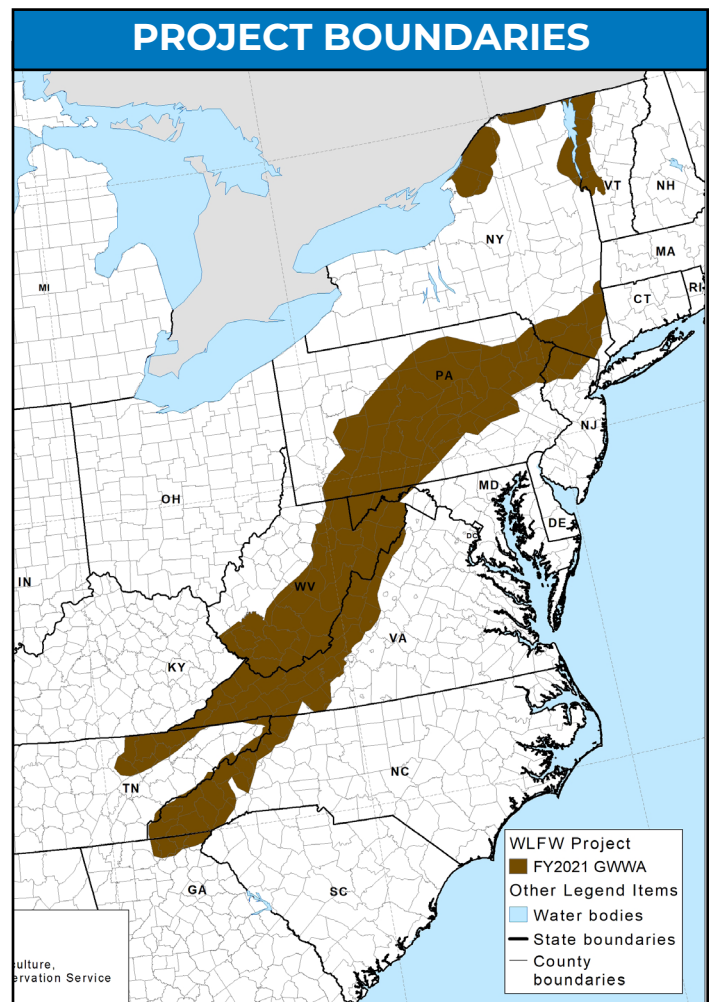
The lack of age class diversity in many eastern forests reduces the stability of the timber industry and means there are fewer habitat types to support diverse wildlife. Our projects restore forest health, timber values, and wildlife. Hunters are pleased to experience more turkey, deer, grouse and other small game at sites under WLFW management.

## NRCS and the Golden-winged Warbler

Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) provides technical and financial assistance to help landowners create or enhance breeding habitat that supports golden-winged warblers and other wildlife in the Appalachian Mountains. WLFW also provides participants with regulatory predictability under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which ensures regulatory compliance for landowners who continue to manage using NRCS-prescribed conservation practices for up to 30 years.

## Actions

- Promote sustainable forestry
- Control invasive species
- Implement sustainable timber harvest practices and other forest management strategies that lead to structurally diverse forests
- Restore and maintain nesting and brood-rearing habitat
- Increase cooperation with state and federal land holders to improve forest health and wildlife habitat across all lands



## Outcomes and Impacts

NRCS's Conservation Effects Assessment Program has supported studies that document forest health and wildlife benefits from this initiative <https://nrcs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=2205f3e668ff447093ceb2f7b95b2267>.

## NRCS Goals

NRCS achieved the goals of the FY17-21 Conservation Plan. In 2023, WLFW will work to establish new goals for this partnership based on a NRCS-funded Landis Pro modeling product that links forest health parameters to migratory bird benefits.

NRCS works closely with conservation partners to assess the response of golden-winged warblers and other species to sustainable forestry practices.



Fiscal Year 2021 Golden-winged Warbler NRCS Financial Assistance (FA) and Active and Completed Contracts through WLFW

State	Acres	NRCS Investment	Contracts
Maryland	421	\$322,437	8
New Jersey	159	\$68,256	7
New York	89	\$76,500	5
North Carolina	651	\$281,363	5
Pennsylvania	1,279	\$882,847	24
Virginia	2,788	\$2,004,740	25
West Virginia	1,495	\$256,795	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,882</b>	<b>\$3,892,939</b>	<b>90</b>

Data source: NRCS Resource Economics, Analysis and Policy Division, Oct. 2021.

## Golden-Winged Warbler Overall Summary

FY 2012-16  
FY 2017-21

Total NRCS Investment



Number of Contracts



Total Acres Contracted



## 2021 Milestones:

FY 2012-16  
Acres Completed

FY 2017-21  
Acres Completed

FY 2012-21  
Acres In Progress

MD



NJ



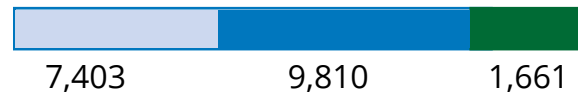
NY



NC



PA



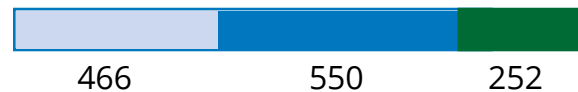
TN



VA



WV



## TOTALS TO DATE (FY21)

