

# WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE HABITAT

*It all begins with a farm visit!*

**The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** make farm visits, develop plans, and provide technical and financial support for individuals who want to manage their property for specific wildlife types or for general wildlife habitat improvement.

As your conservation decision partner, NRCS provides free assistance to landowners like you to reach land use and natural resource goals. Our local offices, staffed with conservation professionals with local knowledge, can help you make well-informed conservation decisions.

*We love what we do!*

That's working with farmers, and forest landowners like you to start, expand, enhance, or improve your natural resources and put conservation practices in place that will benefit the soil, water, air, and wildlife.

## Getting Started with NRCS

**Schedule a Farm Visit.** Call or email your local USDA Service Center to set up an appointment.

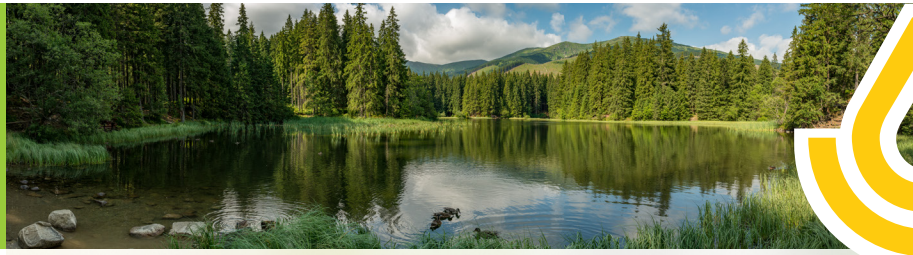
**How to Prepare.** What is your vision for your land and farm? What are your challenges? Prepare a list of questions and concerns for your NRCS conservation specialist.

**What to Expect.** An NRCS team member will visit your property and ask about your dreams and goals for your land and can help you develop a plan to obtain them. During our farm visit we can discuss conservation planning and what financial and technical support is available for you.



West Virginia  
**Natural  
 Resources  
 Conservation  
 Service**

WV • October 2021



## The Benefits of Helping Wildlife

Sustainable agriculture practices on farms and forests benefit wildlife by improving soil health, water quality and plant diversity. They also create profitable, productive agricultural land that is more resilient to drought, fire, and other natural disturbances.

Managing for a diverse set of conditions for all types of wildlife provides the best chance to attract a bigger pool of wildlife species.

## West Virginia Wildlife Habitat



**Forests** West Virginia's diverse forests are home to songbirds, wild game, and fish. Healthy forests provide clean air and water, flood protection, wildlife habitat, recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, jobs, and numerous other services and products that we enjoy every day.  
**Some WV Species:** White Oak, Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, and Ruffed Grouse

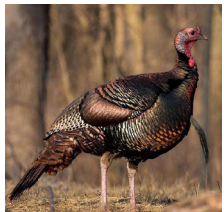


**Grasslands** Whether they span 1 or 100 acres, privately owned farms (including pastures and cropland) across West Virginia provide food and habitat for wildlife and all sorts of animals. **Some WV Species:** Milkweed, Monarch, Eastern Meadowlark, and Eastern Cottontail



**Aquatic** Clean, fresh water is as important to birds, bats, butterflies, and other wildlife as it is for people. It supplies food and cover for a large diversity of animals, and serve as migration routes and connectors between habitats for a variety of wildlife. **Some WV Species:** Brook Trout, Eastern Hellbender, and Louisiana Waterthrush

## Our Conservation Partners



**Sometimes it takes a village to create quality wildlife habitat!**

NRCS experts from many disciplines work together with state and local partners to ensure effective conservation practices.

Individually the federal, state,

and nonprofit groups that comprise our conservation partnerships have a diversity of expertise in discipline, location/area, and focus. As partners in conservation, we share our unique areas of expertise to better put sustainable conservation on your land.

**Partners NRCS frequently work with for Wildlife Conservation include:**

- WV Department of Natural Resources
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
- USDA Forest Service (USFS)

**Various Non-Profit Organizations:**

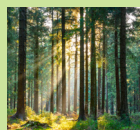
- Trout Unlimited (TU)
- National Wild Turkey Foundation (NWTF)
- Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (AMJV)
- American Bird Conservancy (ABC)

### Contact Us

#### WV USDA Service Centers

Beckley	681-220-5761
Buckeye	304-427-3006
Cross Lanes	304-776-5256 ext 108
Elkins	304-635-4399
Franklin	304-358-2285 ext 3019
Gassaway	304-364-5103 ext 4012
Glenville	304-462-7171 ext 3
Huntington	304-697-6033 ext 8396
Keyser	304-788-2332 ext 108
Kingwood	304-441-3770
Lewisburg	681-318-4025
Martinsburg	681-247-3016
McMechen	304-238-5648
Middlebourne	304-758-2173
Moorefield	304-530-2825 ext 106
Mount Clare	304-566-3727
Parkersburg	304-422-9072 ext 111
Petersburg	304-257-4702 ext 117
Philippi	304-457-4516 ext 115
Point Pleasant	304-857-5101
Princeton	304-557-3132
Ranson	304-930-9043
Ripley	304-514-7171
Romney	304-822-3020 ext 101
Spencer	304-519-3007
Summersville	304-618-6126
Union	304-772-3006
Weston	681-533-4128
White Hall	304-368-6910

## Common West Virginia Wildlife Conservation Practices



**Forest Stand Improvement** Forest Stand Improvement is used to manage tree species composition, tree density, and forest structure by cutting or killing selected trees and undergrowth to achieve desired forest conditions.



**Brush Management** Brush Management is used to control undesirable, non-native, and invasive woody vegetation such as autumn olive, bush honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, oriental bittersweet, tree of heaven, and grapevine. Treatments may be mechanical, chemical, or a combination of the two and are intended to promote the establishment and growth of desirable plants.



**Tree/Shrub Site Preparation and Tree/Shrub Establishment** Tree/Shrub Site Preparation is used to improve growing-site conditions prior to establishing a stand of trees and shrubs. Tree/Shrub Establishment is then used to establish trees and shrubs by planting seedlings or cuttings, by direct seeding, or through natural regeneration.



**Structures for Wildlife** Structures for wildlife are habitat components such as brush piles, used by wildlife for nesting and escape cover. Make the most of debris created as a byproduct of other forest management practices when planning wildlife structures.



**Access Control and Fence** Access Control and Woodland Exclusion Fence are used to restrict livestock from forestland. Unrestricted access to forestland can be detrimental to forests, wildlife, streams, and even livestock themselves. Livestock access must be restricted from forestland where NRCS conservation practices are planned in order to be eligible for financial assistance on that land.



**Early Successional Habitat Management** Early Successional Habitat Management is used to influence the natural succession of plant communities, which usually progresses from grasses to trees, in order to benefit wildlife or plant communities. Various techniques such as light disking, mowing, and clearing forest openings can be used to maximize plant and animal diversity.

**Visit our website: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wv](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wv)**

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