These 11 projects are providing producers with the tools to restore and protect habitat on four types of working landscapes: wetlands, riparian areas, grasslands and forests.

**Wetlands**
NRCS is helping producers restore and protect wetlands, including bogs in the Northeast, coastal marshes along the Chesapeake and Delaware bays and wetlands in the Gulf region of Louisiana. Common practices include constructed wetlands, herbaceous weed control and critical area planting. These projects build on WLFW efforts for the bog turtle as well as the Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative, which was launched to help create alternative habitat for migratory birds following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

**Riparian Areas**
NRCS is helping producers restore riparian areas along critical rivers and streams, from the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska to the Colorado River in Colorado and Texas. These projects improve the health of these ecosystems by the removal of barriers and by better management of agricultural lands nearby. Common practices include stream habitat management, tree establishment and riparian forest buffers. These projects build on the agency’s targeted work to benefit the fluvial Arctic grayling, which has seen tremendous population growth in recent years because of the work of ranchers in Montana.

**Grasslands**
NRCS is helping producers manage for healthier grasslands, from rangelands in the Sandhills of Nebraska to pastures in the East. These projects benefit birds like northern bobwhite and greater prairie-chicken and insects like the American burying beetle. Common practices include prescribed burning, prescribed grazing, brush management and cross fencing. These projects build on the agency’s Sage Grouse Initiative and Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative, both successful conservation campaigns in the West.

**Forests**
NRCS is helping producers manage for healthier, more structurally diverse forests. The decline of early successional habitat in the East has led to the decline of many species, including northern bobwhite. Common practices include early successional habitat development, forest stand improvement and upland wildlife management. These projects build on WLFW efforts for the golden-winged warbler and New England cottontail, which have led to wider adoption of sustainable forestry practices.

**Recipe for Success**
Two-thirds of the land in the lower 48 states are privately owned, and these productive working lands provide much of our nation’s food and fiber as well as open space and wildlife habitat. Through Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW), USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners plan and implement wildlife-friendly conservation practices. By restoring and protecting habitat, agricultural producers are helping target species and other wildlife and improving agricultural operations.

NRCS launched WLFW in 2012 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners plan and implement wildlife-friendly conservation practices. By restoring and protecting habitat, agricultural producers are helping target species and other wildlife and improving agricultural operations.

NRCS launched WLFW in 2012 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to focus on seven nationally-identified target species, from the lesser prairie chicken in the West to the gopher tortoise in the East. Target species are used because their habitat needs are representative of healthy, functioning landscapes. WLFW leverages Farm Bill dollars, the largest source of federal funding for private lands conservation, which provides ample opportunities for producers to aid wildlife on working lands. WLFW has delivered many unprecedented successes over the years, including the rebound and recovery of many species, such as the greater sage-grouse and New England cottontail.

**New WLFW Projects**
Because of these successes, NRCS is transferring its WLFW conservation model to more species and working landscapes. In 2016, our staff across the country proposed wildlife conservation projects that followed the WLFW conservation model, and 11 of those projects will get started in fiscal year 2017. Projects vary from hyperlocal watersheds like the Conasauga River in Georgia and Tennessee to the Sandhill grasslands of Nebraska. Some projects focus on one species like the northern bobwhite and American black duck while others focus on a whole suite of species. When habitat is restored for these species, many others benefit. NRCS uses species as indicators of the health of the ecosystem at-large.
**NEW WLFW PROJECTS**

**KENAI PENINSULA SALMON**
- **Target Species:** Sockeye, chinook, chum, pink and coho salmon
- **State:** AK
- **Milestone:** 25 miles of riparian area restored by FY20

**SANDHILLS**
- **Target Species:** Greater prairie-chicken, American burying beetle
- **State:** NE
- **Milestone:** 20,000 acres by FY17

**CUTTHROAT TROUT**
- **Target Species:** Cutthroat trout
- **State:** CO
- **Milestone:** 6,500 acres by FY19

**COLORADO RIVER MUSSELS**
- **Target Species:** 6 at-risk mollusk species
- **State:** TX
- **Milestone:** 650,000 acres by FY21

**SHOREBIRDS OF LA WETLANDS**
- **Target Species:** Lesser yellowlegs, buff-breasted and stiff sandpipers, short-billed dowitcher
- **State:** LA
- **Milestone:** 10,000 acres by FY18

**YAZOO DARTER**
- **Target Species:** Yazoo darter
- **State:** MS
- **Milestone:** 8.5 miles of riparian area restoration by FY21

**CONASAUGA RIVER SPECIES**
- **Target Species:** Holiday, bridled and trispot darters
- **State:** GA, TN
- **Milestone:** 10,800 acres by FY19

**BOBWHITE IN PINE SAVANNA**
- **Target Species:** Northern bobwhite
- **States:** GA, NJ, NC, SC, FL, AL
- **Milestone:** 82,000 acres by FY18

**AMERICAN BLACK DUCK**
- **Target Species:** American black duck
- **States:** DE, MD, VA, NJ
- **Milestone:** 960 acres by FY18

**BOBWHITE IN GRASSLANDS**
- **Target Species:** Northern bobwhite
- **States:** VA, AR, IL, IN, NC, OH, MO, KY
- **Milestone:** 150,000 acres by FY18

**CONASAUGA RIVER MUSSELS**
- **Target Species:** Holiday, bridled and trispot darters
- **State:** GA, TN
- **Milestone:** 10,800 acres by FY19

**CONASAUGA RIVER AQUATIC SPECIES**

**BOBWHITE IN GRASSLANDS**

**COLORADO RIVER MUSSELS**

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