



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

# GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

Status: At-risk



## PROJECT BOUNDARIES

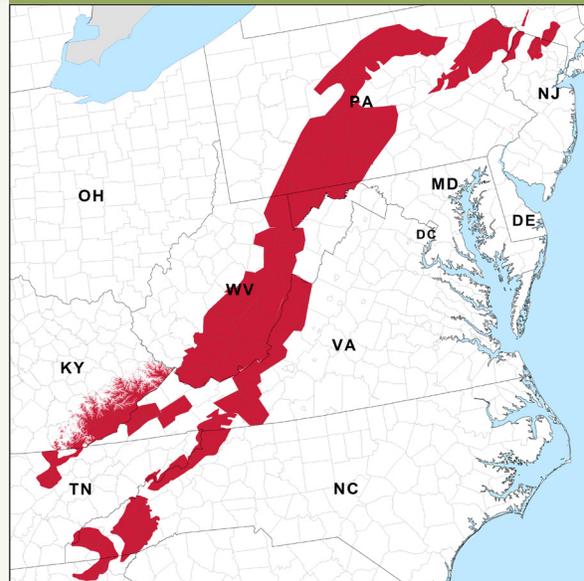
The golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) is a neotropical migratory songbird that breeds in young forests and shrubland habitats in of the deep forests of the Appalachian Mountains and upper Great Lakes. During the past 50 years, this vibrant songbird has experienced significant population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

Golden-winged warblers nest in a variety of early successional habitats that have a mix of scattered large trees, shrubs, saplings, blackberry, and herbaceous cover such golden-rod, grasses, and sedges. Habitats used by this species include managed shrublands, regenerating forests and woody wetlands. While young forests communities provide important nesting habitat, recent studies reveal the species also uses a variety of other forests for other activities such as foraging and brood rearing. The expansive forested landscapes of the Appalachians provide a tremendous opportunity to provide biologically meaningful amounts of nesting and brood-rearing habitat for this imperiled songbird.

Creating or maintaining breeding habitat for the golden winged warblers will also benefit a variety of game and non-game species.

### **NRCS and the Golden-winged Warbler**

Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers create or enhance breeding habitat that supports for golden-winged warblers in the Appalachian Mountains. WLFW also provides landowners with predictability under the ESA, providing incidental take coverage for species that depend on early successional habitat. Predictability enables landowners to operate their working lands as long as NRCS-prescribed conservation practices are maintained.



### **Actions**

- Restore and maintain nesting and brood-rearing habitat.
- Increase cooperation with state wildlife and forestry agencies and bird conservation partnerships.
- Promote sustainable forestry.
- Control invasive species.
- Implement sustainable timber harvest practices and other forest management strategies that lead to structurally diverse forests.

### **Outcomes and Impacts**

Producers are restoring breeding habitat for the golden-winged warbler and associated species that require young forests and shrublands. These activities will aid in the implementation of the species' Status Review and Conservation Plan (2012) and will giving producers confidence that the conservation practices they implement will not harm the species or its habitat.



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

Fiscal Year 2018 Golden-winged Warbler  
NRCS Financial Assistance (FA) and Active and Completed Contracts through WLFW

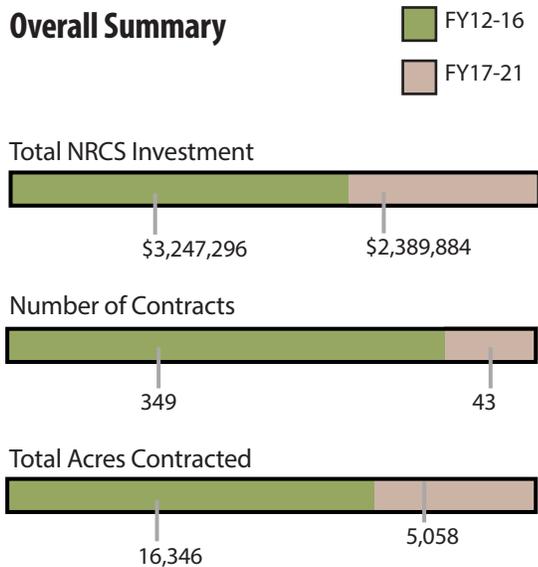
State	Acres	NRCS Investment	Contracts
Georgia	38	\$9,120	1
Maryland	403	\$272,675	7
New Jersey	158	\$181,418	7
New York	0	\$0	0
North Carolina	0	\$0	0
Pennsylvania	1,387	\$552,320	18
Tennessee	0	\$0	0
Virginia	503	\$271,029	5
West Virginia	476	\$90,258	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,965</b>	<b>\$1,376,820</b>	<b>43</b>

Data source: NRCS Resource Economics, Analysis and Policy Division, October 2018.

**NRCS Goals**

Through WLFW, NRCS works with producers to restore young forests to increase golden-winged warbler populations, provide habitat for other species and provide predictability to producers, ensuring they can continue managing their working lands. To address these three goals, NRCS plans to restore 22,000 acres of young forests and old fields by 2021 with specific acreage milestones in each state. These 2021 milestones are outlined in the agency's WLFW Golden-winged Warbler Conservation Strategy.

**Overall Summary**



**2021 Milestones:**

**Progress by State**

