

# 2012 Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative At A Glance

**Do you want to make conservation investments on your privately-owned land that will:**

- ✔ **Create habitat for more bird and game species?**
- ✔ **Make better use of dormant pastures and old fields?**
- ✔ **Help you improve your forest management?**



**First and second evaluation periods end on April 30 and May 30.**

## Program Description



Working Lands for Wildlife is a new partnership between NRCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to focus joint resources on reversing the decline of seven wildlife species while benefitting other species with similar habitat needs.

Virginia landowners in designated focus areas can receive technical assistance and funding to create and maintain habitat for breeding populations of the golden-winged warbler. This migratory songbird once thrived in the Appalachian region but is now at-risk for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

You must own or have control of the land you wish to enroll for the length of the agreement and for the lifespan of the conservation practices in the agreement. Participants agree to install and maintain the practices, allow NRCS or its agent access to monitor the effectiveness of the practices, and establish at least one essential practice within the first 12 months. NRCS provides technical assistance and pays up to 75 percent of the cost of installing the practices.

2012 Resource Concern	Description	Sample Practices
<p><b>Insufficient Habitat for Golden-Winged Warbler (GWWA)</b></p>  <p><i>This at-risk species can thrive in high elevations with forest cover.</i></p>	<p>This campaign will focus on creating/managing early successional and upland wildlife habitats for GWWA and other species that benefit from similar habitat (i.e., quail and turkey).</p> <p>Land should be at a high elevation with established forest cover. The area should be within one mile of other similar habitats with no known Blue-winged Warbler populations. Wetlands, old fields, fire and timber harvest sites are good locations for new GWWA projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access Control</li> <li>• Conservation Cover</li> <li>• Field Borders</li> <li>• Fence</li> <li>• Hedgerows</li> <li>• Prescribed Burning</li> <li>• Tree/Shrub Establishment</li> <li>• Vegetation Management</li> </ul>

## Goals, Objectives and Coverage Area



GWWA depend on shrubby, vegetated areas for breeding. (Photo by Todd Groh, Virginia Department of Forestry)



Bobwhite quail and turkey also benefit from early successional habitat development.

The Appalachian region offers diverse vegetation for golden-winged warbler breeding and foraging. However, these habitats have declined due to development, re-forestation of farmland, fire suppression, and changes in agricultural and forestry practices.

Virginia is part of a multi-state effort to increase reproducing populations of GWWA by working with private landowners to create and enhance about 10,000 acres of early successional forest habitat over five years.

Eligible Virginia counties include: **Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Buchanan, Carroll, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Highland, Lee, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Wise, Wythe, and Washington.**

Other states in the priority habitat area:

Georgia	North Carolina
Kentucky	Pennsylvania
Maryland	Tennessee
New Jersey	West Virginia
New York	

**Working Lands for Wildlife** is also focusing on restoring six other species nationwide: greater sage-grouse, New England cottontail, bog turtle, gopher tortoise, lesser prairie-chicken, and the Southwestern willow flycatcher.

Keeping these species off the endangered list will also benefit landowners in the focal areas. Those who voluntarily make habitat improvements on their land will receive USFWS assurance that they will not be asked to take added conservation actions in the future.

## PRIORITY AREAS

 HIGH PRIORITY  
 MEDIUM PRIORITY

To sign up, contact your local NRCS office or one of these private lands biologists:

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