



# Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund

## NFWF CONTACTS

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## PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- International Paper
- Altria Group

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Long-eared owls

## BACKGROUND

The Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund (CPSF) was established in 2013 to restore forest and freshwater habitats to conditions that will improve associated wildlife species and the health of freshwater systems, while advancing strategies to support working forests. CPSF helps nonprofits, government agencies, and other local partners work together to accelerate restoration of shortleaf pine and oak savanna, riparian forest, and in-stream habitats in strategic geographies within the greater Cumberland Plateau, one of the most biodiverse regions in the United States.

The CPSF will award competitive grants annually that support five priority strategies: establishing shortleaf pine and oak forests; enhancing and maintaining existing shortleaf pine-oak ecosystems; restoring and enhancing riparian forests and watershed health; expanding and coordinating technical assistance and outreach; and facilitating conservation easements. In ten years, the fund has invested more than \$12.5 million in 70 projects, leveraging \$23 million in conservation resources.

The CPSF is a public-private partnership, with federal funding provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and private funding from International Paper's Forestland Stewards Partnership and Altria Group.

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### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of the Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund are to:

- Restore and enhance shortleaf pine and oak savanna forests on public and private lands
- Restore and enhance riparian forests and freshwater habitat
- Increase populations of forest and grassland birds, as well as fish, amphibians and other aquatic species
- Engage private landowners through outreach, training and technical assistance activities that contribute to the restoration and enhancement of habitats and wildlife, and supports working forests by demonstrating their environmental and socioeconomic benefits

The fund's investments are targeted primarily to focal areas that were selected by scientifically analyzing upland and riparian forest and freshwater systems within the greater Cumberland Plateau region. These focal areas represent locations with the greatest potential for forest and freshwater habitat restoration for terrestrial and aquatic species based on resource mapping, interviews with practitioners in the field, and capacity to carry out habitat restoration work.



Pine warbler



Loggerhead shrike