



Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund

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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

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Prairie warbler

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, International Paper, and Altria Group announced a tenth round of funding for Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund projects. Additional funding was provided this year by the Bezos Earth Fund. Thirteen new or continuing forest and freshwater habitat restoration grants totaling \$4 million were awarded. The thirteen awards generated \$3.4 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$7.4 million.

The Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund (CPSF) restores native forests and freshwater habitats to conditions that will improve associated wildlife species and the health of freshwater systems while advancing strategies to support working forests. Priority areas include:

- Establishing shortleaf pine and oak forests
- Enhancing and maintaining existing shortleaf pine-oak ecosystems
- Restoring and enhancing riparian forests and watershed health to support aquatic species
- Expanding and coordinating technical assistance and outreach
- Conserving working forests through voluntary conservation easements

(continued)



Pine warbler

ALABAMA

Engaging Private Landowners to Restore Shortleaf Pine, White Oak Forests and Aquatic Habitat (AL)

Grantee: Alabama Forestry Foundation
 Grant Amount: \$400,000
 Matching Funds: \$525,000
 Total Project Amount: \$925,000

Engage family forest owners in north Alabama to restore and improve more than 10,000 acres of shortleaf pine, white oak and riparian forests, and remove stream barriers to improve habitat connectivity to 15 miles of stream, benefiting at-risk aquatic species. Project will implement a marketing strategy to target high-priority landowners and will engage 600 landowners through outreach events and technical assistance which will result in at least 60 landowners implementing conservation practices.

Little River Plateau Shortleaf Pine Restoration (AL)

Grantee: Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 Grant Amount: \$99,200
 Matching Funds: \$99,200
 Total Project Amount: \$198,400

Establish 375 acres of shortleaf pine forest on the Little River Wildlife Management Area located within the Little River watershed, which is designated as a Wild and Scenic River in northern Alabama. Project will plant shortleaf pine seedlings and reintroduce prescribed fire to restore and maintain habitat, which will benefit species of concern including loggerhead shrike and other forest and savanna dependent species.

Restoring Water Quality and Connectivity for Species in the Black Warrior-Tombigbee Watershed (AL)

Grantee: Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$371,400
 Matching Funds: \$371,400
 Total Project Amount: \$742,800

Improve stream habitat connectivity and water quality in the Upper Black Warrior, Mulberry, and Sipsey Fork watersheds in Alabama, benefiting the Black Warrior waterdog, flattened musk turtle, and other at-risk aquatic species. Project will inventory and prioritize stream barriers, remove 14 high-priority barriers to restore 150 miles of stream habitat connectivity, and re-vegetate and stabilize the banks of one cumulative mile of riparian forest buffer.

GEORGIA

Restoring Shortleaf Pine and Oak Habitat in the Georgia Cumberlands - II

Grantee: Georgia Forestry Commission
 Grant Amount: \$260,000
 Matching Funds: \$260,000
 Total Project Amount: \$520,000

Restore and enhance shortleaf pine and shortleaf pine-oak savannah habitat on private lands in northwestern Georgia, benefiting northern bobwhite, prairie warbler, pine warbler, Bachman’s sparrow, and other forest-dependent birds. Project will establish 300 acres of shortleaf pine and enhance an additional 1,800 acres of existing shortleaf pine and shortleaf pine-oak savannah habitat with prescribed burning and mid-rotation management techniques.



Wild turkey in Kentucky

KENTUCKY

Advancing Shortleaf Pine and White Oak Restoration on Public and Private Lands (KY)

Grantee: American Conservation Experience
 Grant Amount: \$328,900
 Matching Funds: \$110,400
 Total Project Amount: \$439,300

Provide landowner technical assistance and forest habitat restoration on public and private lands in southern Kentucky to improve 730 acres of shortleaf pine, white oak, and other upland and riparian forest habitats. Project will deploy three six-person conservation crews on the Daniel Boone National Forest and seek to pilot efforts on private lands to assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service in implementing restoration practices.

Restoring Pine/Oak Barrens and Building a Conservation Workforce in Kentucky

Grantee: Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves
 Grant Amount: \$420,200
 Matching Funds: \$530,900
 Total Project Amount: \$951,100

Restore 2,200 acres of imperiled pine barrens and forested riparian habitats on public and private lands in eastern Kentucky, benefiting the long-eared owl, Indiana bat, and other forest-dependent species. Project will implement prescribed burning, invasive species removal, and other restoration treatments and collaborate with local universities, including historically black colleges and universities, to expand an internship program and provide hands-on restoration experience for students.

Restoring Shortleaf Pine and Upland Oak Forests on Legacy Mine Lands in the Cumberland Plateau (KY)

Grantee: Green Forests Work
 Grant Amount: \$168,800
 Matching Funds: \$169,500
 Total Project Amount: \$338,300

Restore 160 acres of shortleaf pine-upland oak forest types on a former coal mine site in the Cumberland Plateau region of Kentucky. Project will address priority goals associated with both the Shortleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and the White Oak Initiative of decompacting soil, removing invasive species, planting native species, and restoring shortleaf pine/oak habitat benefiting northern bobwhite, wild turkey and other game and non-game species.

TENNESSEE

Engaging Family Forest Landowners to Support Sustainable Forest Management Practices (TN)

Grantee: American Forest Foundation
 Grant Amount: \$447,200
 Matching Funds: \$170,000
 Total Project Amount: \$617,200

Engage private landowners through outreach and technical assistance to restore and enhance 1,600 acres of white oak and shortleaf pine habitat in the Tennessee Cumberland Plateau region. Project will assist private landowners with prescribed burning on 600 acres of shortleaf pine and improve habitat through treatment of invasive species and timber stand improvement on 200 acres of shortleaf pine and 800 acres of white oak, benefiting prairie warbler, northern bobwhite, and several bat species.

Increasing Forest and Grassland Habitat Management with a Habitat Specialist Crew (TN)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever
 Grant Amount: \$591,400
 Matching Funds: \$352,700
 Total Project Amount: \$944,100
 Increase landowner technical assistance in the Cumberland Plateau region of Tennessee to restore and enhance more than 1,600 acres of shortleaf pine woodland and savanna habitat. Project will deploy a habitat specialist crew to implement prescribed burns and timber stand improvement treatments, remove invasive species, and plant shortleaf pine and oak seedlings, benefiting northern bobwhite, prairie warbler and other woodland and savanna-dependent species.

Removing Fish Passage Barriers and Improving Water Quality on the Cumberland Plateau (TN)

Grantee: Tennessee Aquarium
 Grant Amount: \$265,700
 Matching Funds: \$137,000
 Total Project Amount: \$402,700
 Improve water quality and in-stream habitat connectivity on private lands in Bledsoe, Rhea, and Sequatchie counties, Tennessee. Project will engage 150 landowners to implement conservation practices on 200 acres of cropland to reduce erosion and improve water quality, replace a failing culvert to improve habitat connectivity within 12 miles of stream and monitor the response of the endangered Laurel dace and other at-risk fish species to stream habitat and water quality improvements.

MULTIPLE STATES

Restore Shortleaf Pine Forest and Grassland Ecosystems on Private Lands (AL, TN)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever
 Grant Amount: \$275,600
 Matching Funds: \$275,600
 Total Project Amount: \$551,200
 Increase landowner outreach and technical assistance, including engagement of historically under served landowners, in the Cumberland Plateau region to accelerate the adoption of Farm Bill programs and practices to restore shortleaf pine and other woodland and savanna ecosystems. Project will restore 1,100 acres of habitat through prescribed fire, forest thinning and invasive species removal, benefiting northern bobwhite, Bachman’s sparrow, and other forest and grassland dependent species.

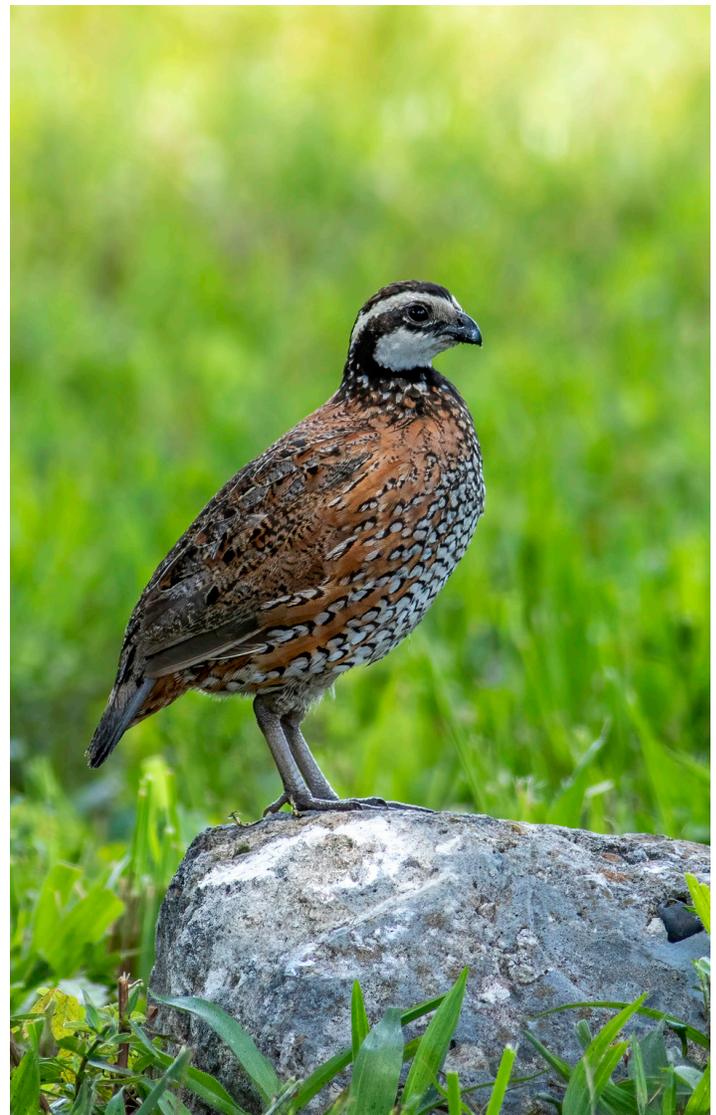
Restoring Abandoned and Legacy Mine Lands in the Cumberland River Basin (KY, TN)

Grantee: Cumberland River Compact
 Grant Amount: \$194,300
 Matching Funds: \$273,700
 Total Project Amount: \$468,000
 Engage private landowners to restore forest habitat on former coal mine sites within the Cumberland River Basin in Kentucky and Tennessee. Project will implement restoration practices

developed by the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, resulting in at least 100 acres of restored riparian forest buffers, improved stream habitat, and the establishment of bird and pollinator habitats.

Southern Cumberlands Shortleaf Pine Seed and Seedling Initiative (AL, GA, TN)

Grantee: Paint Rock Forest Research Center
 Grant Amount: \$266,900
 Matching Funds: \$103,000
 Total Project Amount: \$369,900
 Address the lack of genetically appropriate shortleaf pine seed and seedling resources for reforestation efforts in the Southern Cumberland Plateau region of Alabama and Tennessee. Project will identify appropriate seed sources; collect seeds to support three years of propagation; process seeds and select appropriate nurseries for propagation; produce over 75,000 seedlings ready for distribution to planting projects in the second year of the grant; and develop plans for a permanent seed orchard.



Northern bobwhite