



# NFWF

## Cumberland Plateau 2018 Grant Slate

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### PARTNERS

- Altria Group
- American Forest Foundation
- International Paper
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

### ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Prairie warbler

### OVERVIEW

In 2018, the Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund is awarding more than \$805,000 in funding to six projects that restore and enhance shortleaf pine, riparian forest and in-stream habitats for the benefit of species including bobwhite quail and prairie warbler, as well as fish, amphibians and other aquatic species. The grants will generate more than \$1.15 million in match from grantees for a total conservation impact of more than \$1.9 million.

The Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund invests in on-the-ground projects to restore upland and riparian forests and in-stream habitats to benefit wildlife species and water quality, while advancing strategies to support working forests. Program investments are focused within the greater Cumberland Plateau region, one of the most biologically diverse landscapes in the United States, which covers portions of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

*(continued)*

**Accelerating Restoration of Fire Adapted Habitats on the Cumberland Plateau and Mountains (TN)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy  
 Grant Award:..... \$149,996  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$150,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$299,996**

Use the best available science to map fire-adapted ecological systems, conduct a consensus-based stakeholder process to prioritize sites for prescribed burns, and implement prescribed burning in three high-priority locations within the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee. Project will improve forest habitat on 2,000 acres with prescribed fire, drive habitat restoration management to the highest-priority locations, and maximize the future investments of all land managers in the region.

**Skinner Mountain Forest Shortleaf Pine Restoration and Conservation (TN)**

Grantee: The Conservation Fund  
 Grant Award:..... \$100,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$200,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$300,000**

Restore and enhance shortleaf pine ecosystems on the Skinner Mountain forest property located in Fentress and Overton counties, Tennessee. Project will establish 123 acres of shortleaf pine, enhance an additional 159 acres of existing shortleaf-hardwood forest through thinning and prescribed burning, and permanently protect 11,734 acres with a working forest conservation easement.

**Old Shoal Creek Dam Removal (TN)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy  
 Grant Award:..... \$70,767  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$70,916  
**Total Amount:..... \$141,683**

Restore fish passage and water quality in Shoal Creek by removing Old Shoal Creek Dam. Project will reconnect almost 108 miles of Shoal Creek and its tributaries and expand habitat for at least eight fish species of greatest conservation need.

**Restoring Shortleaf Pine in Kentucky**

Grantee: Office of Kentucky State Nature Preserves  
 Grant Award:..... \$120,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$231,566  
**Total Amount:..... \$351,566**

Establish 165 acres of shortleaf pine and grassland habitat and enhance an additional 432 acres of existing shortleaf pine habitat by thinning hardwood species and introducing prescribed fire on three nature preserves in eastern Kentucky. Project will reduce the threat of southern pine beetle infestations and improve habitat for numerous wildlife species, including bats, wild turkey, bobwhite quail and several rare plants.



Bobwhite quail chick

**Improving Habitat for At-Risk Species in the Alabama Cumberlands - II**

Grantee: Alabama Forestry Foundation  
 Grant Award:..... \$150,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$150,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$300,000**

Engage family forest owners in an area of the Alabama Cumberlands designated as a high-priority landscape under the American Forest Foundation’s Southern Wood and Wildlife Initiative. Project will engage 250 landowners in outreach and technical assistance focused on habitat protection and enhancement for at-risk aquatic species, with the expectation that 14 family forests will improve 80 acres of riparian forests and 12 miles of streams.

**Elk and Duck River Watershed Forest Initiative (TN)**

Grantee: Lincoln County Soil Conservation District  
 Grant Award:..... \$215,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$347,215  
**Total Amount:..... \$562,215**

Establish 300 acres of shortleaf pine, develop forest management plans for 6,000 acres of family forestland and restore 450 acres of forested riparian buffers on degraded streams within priority subwatersheds of Tennessee’s Elk and Duck River watersheds. Project will develop transferable tools to identify priority conservation sites, increase landowner awareness on the benefits of sustainable forest management and riparian buffers, and improve water quality and habitat for northern bobwhite quail, prairie warbler, amphibians and aquatic species.