

Golden-Winged Warbler Status: At-Risk

Background

The vast forested lands of the Appalachian Mountains were once considered a stronghold for the Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). Today, Golden-winged Warblers breeding in the Appalachian region are considered to be at risk, though they have not been recognized as threatened or endangered.

Why are Golden-winged Warblers in Trouble?

- The loss and degradation of young forest habitat
- Golden-winged Warblers and many other species depend upon shrubby, vegetated areas for breeding
E.g. forest clear-cuts, alder swamps & utility rights-of way
- Several factors have contributed to the decline of these young forest habitats
Direct losses to development, abandoned farmland reverting to mature forest & fire suppression
Changes in agricultural & forestry practices

What We're Doing

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) & its partners are assisting private land owners in creating & maintaining young forest habitat necessary to sustain breeding populations of Golden-winged Warblers. This habitat work is focused in forested landscapes within and near their current range.

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

Forests of the Appalachian region offer a tremendous opportunity to improve habitat for the Golden-winged Warbler and other young forest species.



Conservation efforts in support of the Golden-winged Warbler also benefit many wildlife species including:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Wild Turkey | American Woodcock | Whitetail Deer |
| Ruffed Grouse | Snowshoe Hare | Appalachian Cottontail |



Young Forest Habitat

How Forest Landowners Can Create Young Forest Habitat – Funding Available

The NRCS can provide funding to eligible landowners to help share the cost for the implementation of Golden-winged Warbler Best Management Practices (BMPs) which aim to create critically-needed young forest habitat.

- Fundable practices include:
 - Managing brush & controlling invasive and competing weeds
 - Modifying timber harvest plans to create appropriate young forest habitat
 - Old-field management
 - Establishing new trees & shrubs on minelands
 - Restore high-graded or failed clear-cuts

If you or someone you know is interested in creating 10 or more acres of young forest habitat where you live, contact:

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