



Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund

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PARTNERS

- International Paper
- Altria Group
- American Forest Foundation
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Prairie warbler

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and International Paper, Altria Group, American Forest Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced an eighth round of funding for Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund projects. Seven new or continuing freshwater and forest restoration grants totaling \$1.3 million were awarded. The seven awards leveraged nearly \$1.5 million in match from the grantees, generating a total conservation impact of \$2.8 million.

The Cumberland Plateau Stewardship Fund restores native forests 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
- Supporting conservation easements

(continued)



Black bear in Tennessee

Restoring Shortleaf Pine and Oak Habitat in the Georgia Cumberlands (GA)

Grantee: Georgia Forestry Commission
 Grant Amount:\$150,000
 Matching Funds:\$150,000
 Total Project:\$300,000
 Restore and enhance shortleaf pine and shortleaf pine-oak savanna habitat on private lands in northwestern Georgia, benefitting northern bobwhite, prairie warbler, pine warbler, Bachman’s sparrow and other forest and savanna-dependent birds. Project will establish 200 acres of shortleaf pine and enhance an additional 2,000 acres of existing shortleaf pine and shortleaf pine-oak savanna with prescribed burning and mid-rotation management techniques.

Novel Techniques for Restoring Shortleaf Pine-Hardwood Ecosystems on Reclaimed Mine Sites (AL)

Grantee: Mississippi State University
 Grant Amount:\$175,000
 Matching Funds:\$175,000
 Total Project:\$350,000
 Restore 182 acres of shortleaf pine and shortleaf pine-oak habitat on a reclaimed mine site in north-central Alabama, improving soil and water quality and benefitting species such as northern bobwhite and freshwater mussels. Project will use the restored property as a demonstration site to engage private landowners and land managers through field day events and short courses, seeking to increase adoption of habitat restoration practices on additional reclaimed mine sites.

Expanding Prescribed Fire Implementation on the Cumberland Plateau - II (TN)

Grantee: Tennessee Department of Agriculture
 Grant Amount:\$230,000
 Matching Funds:\$230,000
 Total Project:\$460,000
 Expand prescribed burning on public and privately owned shortleaf pine forests in the Cumberland Plateau of Tennessee to benefit birds such as Bachman’s sparrow, prairie warbler, and northern bobwhite. Project will support a prescribed fire strike team that will implement at least 1,500 acres of prescribed burning.

Restoring Connectivity and Improving In-Stream Habitat in the Upper Sipsey Fork Watershed (AL)

Grantee: Alabama Forestry Foundation
 Grant Amount:\$225,000
 Matching Funds:\$295,000
 Total Project:\$520,000
 Replace improperly installed and maintained culvert crossings to restore connectivity in thirteen high-priority streams in Winston County, Alabama, benefitting numerous freshwater species, including the Black Warrior waterdog and flattened musk turtle. Project will improve habitat connectivity within 101 miles of streams, improve 20 acres of riparian forest, and engage at least 40 private landowners through education or technical assistance to promote conservation practices on private lands.

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Brown-headed nuthatch

Building Partnerships to Restore Woodlands and Improve Water Quality in the Cumberland Plateau (KY)

Grantee: Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves

Grant Amount:\$238,000
Matching Funds:\$284,146
Total Project:\$522,146

Restore shortleaf pine-oak and riparian forests and implement agricultural best management practices to improve wildlife habitat and water quality within the Cumberland Plateau region in Kentucky. Project will improve forest and farmland management on nearly 1,000 acres of public and private land, restore reclaimed mineland, and treat the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid to protect five miles of riparian forest, benefitting Indiana bats, northern bobwhite, and freshwater fishes and mussels.

Increasing Adoption of Soil Health Practices on the Cumberland Plateau (TN)

Grantee: Tennessee Aquarium

Grant Amount: \$90,000
Matching Funds: \$97,420
Total Project:\$187,420

Reduce soil degradation and runoff by implementing no-till and other soil health practices on vegetable farms in Bledsoe, Rhea, and Sequatchie counties, Tennessee. Project will engage 100 private landowners and producers through field days and a demonstration video to implement environmentally sustainable and profitable farming practices on 150 acres, which will improve water quality and protect and improve habitat for the Laurel dace, Tennessee dace, and many other freshwater fish.



Freshwater mussels

Accelerating Forest Restoration and Management in the Cumberland Plateau (TN)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever

Grant Amount:\$265,520
Matching Funds:\$266,000
Total Project:\$531,520

Increase private landowner technical assistance in the Cumberland Plateau region of Tennessee to restore and enhance forest and freshwater habitats. Project will engage 450 landowners to establish or enhance more than 1,000 acres of shortleaf pine-oak and riparian forest and implement best management practices on 350 acres of agricultural land to improve forest habitat and water quality, benefitting northern bobwhite and prairie warbler, as well as freshwater fishes and mussels.



Shortleaf pine | credit: Clarence Coffey



Pine and oak savanna in Georgia