

Working Lands for Wildlife:
Golden-winged Warbler focus
Summary of 1st signup, to-date

In order to provide an update to everyone interested/involved in the delivery of this effort in the Appalachians, as well as to identify and address needs moving forward, Brian Smith (Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture Coordinator) sent the e-mail below to each NRCS State Biologist. The response rate was very high, providing the collective group (NRCS, FWS, state partners, involved members of the GWWA Working Group, and the JV) excellent feedback.

The original e-mail (in part):

The Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture Management Board is meeting on May 22-23 and has requested that I provide them an up-to-date summary of the Golden-winged Warbler portion of the NRCS/FWS Working Lands for Wildlife effort. I know all of you are extremely busy this time of year, but whenever possible, could you please forward me a summary of your respective state's estimates/requests for the first year of this effort (e.g., the requested acreage, estimated funding, and number of landowners targeted for the region)?

If at all possible, it would be great to include the following information for each state:

- 1) List of practices that each state selected;
- 2) Ranking/screening criteria for each state;
- 3) Estimated acreage to be enrolled during this signup (& number of landowners);
- 4) Funding requested for this signup (& future signups if you & your in-state partners discussed this);
- 5) Any identified 'needs' (e.g., training workshops, monitoring guidance, etc.) that the JV & its partners could help with; and,
- 6) Any additional recommendations, criteria, or needs that might not fit into the above categories (e.g., contract length, minimum acreage per contract, etc.).

List of Approved Practices (developed by national offices of NRCS/FWS)

Core Practices*	Supporting Practices
643 Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats	314 Brush Management
645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	315 Herbaceous Weed Control
647 Early Successional Habitat – fescue conversion or mulching	327 Conservation Cover
	338 Prescribed Burning
	342 Critical Area Planting
	382 Fence
	386 Field Border
	394 Firebreak
	472 Access Control
	490 Forest Site Preparation
	528 Prescribed Grazing
	612 Tree and Shrub Establishment
*Contracts must include a core practice	666 Forest Stand Improvement

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The following table summarizes the information we received from each state relative to acreages, funding, etc.

	GA	NC	TN	VA	KY	WV	MD	PA	NJ	NY
Practices [^]			Requested several additional							
Local Ranking Criteria?*	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided	In progress	Provided		
Acreage Estimated for this signup	0**	200	1,600	1,250	100^^	167	100	500		
Funding Requested	\$0**	\$37.5k	\$327k	\$50k	\$27k	\$100k fy12 \$200k fy13 \$100k fy14	\$35k	\$500k		

[^]Provided above.

*National & State level ranking questions were developed by national offices of NRCS/FWS, but states developed local-level questions in collaboration with in-state partners/GWWA experts

**GA has very few acres of private land above the suitable elevation threshold; therefore, they did not request any acreage/funding, but if they receive applications that rank highly, they will ask for funding in the 2nd round of funding.

^^Working with a corporate landowner to do large project in future signup

Additional Needs/Recommendations/Issues Identified (combined for all states)

- Revisit approved “supporting practices” list
- Better understanding of what is needed for GWW at southern latitudes (GWWA use of timber harvests & role of fire/herbicides to manage those for GWWA)
- A key to maintaining habitat is prescribed fire. Burning once or twice will not work. That’s all that can be done with short contracts...but most states do not want to go to 15 year contracts.
- ESA Assurances and guidance regarding existing populations of listed species
- Monitoring \$\$ and GWWA plans/guidelines for various habitat types, focal areas, etc.
- Outreach to landowners is a major need moving forward (to help drum up business): start with those partners are working with already, then strategically target landowners in ‘hot spots’, followed by a more general outreach within the region.
- Education of partners on WL4W, Farm Bill program business rules/operating procedures, and function of various programs w/in Farm Bill
- Big issue with only being able to implement a management practice 3 years in life of contract, because early successional wildlife need long-term, periodic management. Also, practice lifespans present issues because we can’t implement a practice with a lifespan of X years more often than every X years (e.g. brush management has a 5 year lifespan).