



## Forest Landbird Legacy Program

The Forest Landbird Legacy Program (FLLP) is a voluntary wildlife conservation program for private non-industrial forest landowners in all parts of North Carolina who want to manage their mature forests to benefit forest dwelling landbirds. The focus of the FLLP is migratory “birds of conservation concern” identified by the Partners In Flight assessment for North Carolina. The FLLP will build appreciation for songbirds and their forest habitats, provide recognition to landowners that conserve forest landbirds, promote forest management to sustain migratory bird populations, and provide expert planning and financial assistance for restoration and enhancement practices.



Swainson's Warbler



Northern Parula



Hooded Warbler

**Why should I participate?** FLLP participants receive assistance from professional wildlife biologists and foresters to develop a landbird management plan. Reimbursement for a portion of costs incurred implementing a forest landbird conservation plan is also available. Each participating landowner can receive a Forest Landbird Legacy sign and certificate recognizing their participation in the program and their commitment to bird conservation.

**Who can participate in the FLLP?** Cost sharing is available to any non-industrial forest landowners including private owners, partnerships, corporations, not-for-profits, local governments, and Indian tribes. Federal agencies, state agencies, and commercial forest industries cannot receive cost sharing. However, planning assistance and program recognition may still be given to participants that are not eligible for cost share. Land eligibility is determined by “the 50/50 rule” that calls for forests to be a minimum of 50 years old and 50 acres in size. The forested or wooded land must have management potential and must contribute to a larger landscape affect that benefits forest landbirds. Exceptions may be made to the 50/50 rule if surrounding landscape contributes to the goals of the program. The program is available statewide.

**How long do I have to participate in order to receive funding?** FLLP participants will be asked to sign an agreement to implement and maintain their habitat conservation plan over a span of at least 10 years. Each participant will also be asked to demonstrate their commitment to the FLLP goals by sharing part of the cost to implement the conservation plan using their own resources which may include agreed-to materials, labor, or money.



Summer Tanager



Prothonotary Warbler

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Black-throated Blue Warbler



Wood Thrush



Kentucky Warbler



## What type of conservation work will be done on my land?

Forest landbird conservation plans will be considerate of the participant's goals, values, concerns, and abilities. Conservation plans may include prescriptions for a variety of treatments such as snag creation, prescribed burning, control of exotic invasive plants, tree-release cutting, creation of gaps in the canopy, habitat improvement plantings, and in some cases simply maintaining the status quo.

**How much work or money will I have to contribute?** FLLP will contribute up to 75% of the cost of recommended actions. Project costs will be calculated based on the average state-wide cost of a practice as indicated on the FLLP cost rate list. Payments will be made to participants by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC). The participants are asked to provide a contribution of materials, labor, or money totaling at least 25% of the project cost.

**When will I receive assistance and/or funding?** Participants receive cost reimbursement after the project is completed and approved by the NCWRC. Treatments will be scheduled for completion within 24 months of signing the FLLP agreement. Each participant may only receive one cost-sharing agreement per year. Participants may reapply in subsequent years. No participant may receive more than \$10,000 reimbursement from FLLP.

**How will others know I am participating in this program?** Participants having existing habitat that already demonstrates conservation of biodiversity in mature forests for the benefit of forest-dependent landbirds may be certified as Forest Landbird Legacy Habitat participants and receive the FLLP sign and certificate. Certified sites demonstrate the goal of the FLLP and serve to educate the public and recognize landowners who participate in the program.

**How do I apply to become part of this program?** Contact a FLLP representative in your area to discuss your interest and schedule a site visit. Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the FLLP partnership. Those selected will be offered a participation agreement and cost-sharing if appropriate.

## CONTACTS:

### Coastal Plain

David H. Allen, NCWRC (252) 448-1546  
Don Barker, NCWRC (919) 751-0976  
Bill Edwards, NRCS (919) 751-0976  
Deanna Noble, NCWRC (252) 526-1081  
Susan Miller, USFWS (910) 695-3323  
Chris Turner, NCWRC (919) 270-6573  
Kendall Smith, USFWS (252) 473-0241

Jon Shaw, NCWRC (704) 474-7202  
Joe Folta, NCWRC (919) 269-2767  
John Isenhour, NCWRC (704) 637-2400  
Jeff Marcus, NCWRC (910) 281-4388  
Danny Ray, NCWRC (336) 562-5066  
John Ann Shearer, USFWS (919) 856-4520 (ext.17)

### Piedmont

Laura Fogo, USFWS (910) 695-3323  
Don Riley, NRCS (919) 873-2185  
Kacy Cook, NCWRC (910) 638-4887

### Mountains

Patrick Farrell, NCWRC (828) 293-5231  
Anita Goetz, USFWS (828) 258-3939 (ext. 228)  
Kelly Hughes, NCWRC (828) 651-8380  
Chris Kelly, NCWRC (828) 299-7441