

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

North Carolina



photo: Nora Murrlock



photo: JA Shearer



photo: Bob Noffsinger



photo: USFWS

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Photos (top to bottom)

Partners for Fish and Wildlife restores wild habitats like this Appalachian Bog wetland which is critically important to the threatened Bog Turtle.

Funding from the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is used to restore longleaf pine habitat by burning. Longleaf pine communities which once spread over 92 million acres in the southeast United States currently comprise only about 2 million acres.

Water control structures are often used to restore hydrology to bottomland hardwoods, riparian wetlands, and other wetland habitat types.

All Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects benefit federal trust resources such as these endangered mussels.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Partners for Fish and Wildlife is a National Program within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is a voluntary program designed to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners who want to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitats on their property. All projects must benefit federal trust resources. Federal trust resources include migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, and anadromous or migratory fish.

Program Goals

- Restore fish and wildlife habitats for federal trust resources on private lands.
- Enter into voluntary agreements with private landowners.
- Leverage funds and resources with other partners.
- Work closely with National Wildlife Refuges and State Gamelands to support their wildlife missions.
- Promote biodiversity.

- Develop projects that support the goals of:

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan

National Wildlife Refuge System

Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Plans

Fisheries Management and Restoration Plans

Ecosystem Management Plans

Southeastern Shorebird Plan

Partners-In-Flight

Qualifying Landowners

All landowners qualify to participate in Partners for Fish and Wildlife. Participating landowners include private individuals, family trusts, partnerships, corporate owners, non-profit organizations, governments, and universities.

Habitat Types

North Carolina is graced with a diversity of habitat types. Likewise, Partners for Fish and Wildlife works to restore that same diversity of habitat types throughout the state. In particular, the program targets:

- Wetlands.
- Upland and Bottomland Hardwoods.
- Longleaf Pine.
- Appalachian Mountain Bogs.
- Stream and Riparian Areas.
- Piedmont Prairie.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Provides:

Technical assistance such as habitat restoration and enhancement recommendations and planning. The program also provides information on other available programs and partners that may help.

Financial assistance such as 40-70% of the project cost.

North Carolina Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Landowners Provide:

Agreement for 10+ years to keep the land in its restored state.

Coordination and cooperation.

Cost share or in kind services.

Reporting/documenting.

Habitat Accomplishments (1988-2001)

Over 7,000 acres of wetlands and uplands and 23 miles of streams on 140 projects.

Partnership Support

Partners is the name of the game. Partners provide technical and financial assistance to projects making them well choreographed and realistic undertakings. Some of our North Carolina partners include:

- USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.
- The Nature Conservancy.
- North Carolina Forest Service.
- Ducks Unlimited.
- Conservation Trust For North Carolina and many North Carolina land trusts.
- Private landowners.

Questions and Answers

What are some examples of Partners for Fish and Wildlife Projects in North Carolina?

- For the benefit of multiple wildlife species, Partners for Fish and Wildlife provided partnering landowners in Hyde County technical and financial assistance to restore hydrology and vegetation on prior drained wetlands covering hundreds of acres.
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife is working with government officials in Pitt County to restore fish passage and hydrology to bottomland hardwoods adjacent to channelized streams by installing specialized water control structures.
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife worked with private landowners to restore longleaf pine habitat on their 27 acre tract in Moore County where red-cockaded

woodpeckers once foraged and nested.

- A partnership with UNC-Charlotte, The Nature Conservancy, and Partners for Fish and Wildlife began in 1998 to restore a historic Piedmont prairie on the Mineral Springs Preserve in Union County.
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife contributed \$5,000 to the Fayetteville Public Works Commission to develop interpretive signs for a wetlands educational site for school children in Cumberland County.
- In 1997 Partners for Fish and Wildlife contributed \$20,000 to Pilot View RC&D as part of a multi-partner, large scale undertaking to restore sections of the Mitchell River in Surry County.

Is the focus of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program only habitat restoration and enhancement?

No. Funds for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program may occasionally be used for educational materials that emphasize conservation of Federal trust resources.

How do I apply to the program?

Notify the Partners for Fish and Wildlife contact closest to where you live to discuss your project. A Service representative will likely visit your property and discuss program objectives with you, and will be available for technical assistance should you want to restore fish and wildlife habitat on your land. If you would like to receive funding assistance from the program, the Service representative will assist you in preparing an application. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Funds are limited. Therefore, your project must compete with other projects submitted to the program.

Will the public have any right to access my property if I am a program participant?

No. You will maintain your property in private ownership.

What is NC Partners?

NC Partners is another program with a name so similar to Partners for Fish and Wildlife that it sometimes becomes confusing. Actually the mission of the two programs is very similar. NC Partners is a Partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The program is designed to assist private landowners restore and create managed wetlands for the benefit of waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife species.

Generally, NC Partners will provide technical assistance on developing a marsh impoundment in prior converted agricultural lands. Financial assistance does not exceed \$200 per acre. Landowners are responsible for contributing the remainder of the project cost and overseeing the project. Landowners sign an agreement to manage the land for a minimum of 10 years. They also agree to restricted hunting times and no commercial hunting. Most NC Partners projects are in the coastal plain, however a few have been done in the Piedmont. Those interested in this type of habitat restoration may contact any of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife contacts or representative from the other partnering agencies.

Additional Partners for Fish and Wildlife contacts:

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