



# Partners for Fish and Wildlife

## North Carolina



photo: USFWS

### Photos (top to bottom)

*Longleaf pine trees are being re-established on 45 acres in Onslow County, contributing to the restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem.*

*A landowner proudly displays his Partners for Fish and Wildlife sign in front of a hardwood seedling planted to form a riparian buffer along Otter Creek in Pitt County. The buffer will benefit migratory birds as well as aquatic life in the adjacent creek.*



photo: USFWS

*In partnership with UNC-Charlotte and Cabarrus County Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as several others, Partners for Fish and Wildlife has contributed to the restoration of a 5.5 acre remnant native grassland.*

*The endangered Appalachian elktoe is one of the beneficiaries of a Partners for Fish and Wildlife project to restore the riparian and floodplain buffer, and instream habitat in the Upper Little Tennessee River basin.*



photo: John Suther

### Private Lands

90% of the land in North Carolina is privately owned. Without conservation efforts on private lands, many of our trust resources would simply not survive. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provides technical and financial support to landowners who want to manage their land for wildlife.

### The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's primary mechanism for delivering voluntary on-the-ground habitat improvement projects on private lands for the benefit of Federal trust species: migratory birds, anadromous or migratory fish, and endangered or threatened species. Biologists provide technical and financial assistance to landowners who want to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitats on their property.

### Program Goals

- Promote and implement habitat restoration projects that benefit Federal trust species.
- Provide conservation leadership and promote partnerships.
- Encourage public understanding and participation.
- Work with USDA to implement Farm Bill conservation programs.

### Qualifying Landowners

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

### Habitat Types

Partners for Fish and Wildlife works in a diversity of habitat types throughout the state including:

- Forested Wetlands (Bottomland Hardwoods, Non-alluvial swamp forest, Pocosins)
- Longleaf Pine
- Native Grasslands
- Streams and Riparian Areas
- Schoolyard Habitats

### Partners for Fish and Wildlife Provides:

- Technical assistance such as habitat restoration recommendations and planning. The program also provides information about other available programs and partners that may help.
- Financial assistance such as 40-70% of the project cost.

### Landowners Provide:

- An agreement to keep the land in its reported state for a minimum of 10 years.
- Coordination and cooperation.
- Cost share or in kind services.
- Reporting and documentation.



photo: Anita Goetz

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Photos top to bottom: Grass Pink/USFWS; Pine barrens tree frog/USFWS; Kentucky warbler/Chris Moorman; Pine snake/USFWS; Restored and managed longleaf pine.

### Restoration Accomplishments (1988-2010)

- Over 22,000 acres of upland and wetland habitat
- Over 100 miles of streams
- Over 330 projects throughout North Carolina!

### Partnership Support

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

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

The Nature Conservancy

Various North Carolina Land Trusts

Ducks Unlimited

North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Private landowners

### Questions and Answers

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

- Restored hundreds of acres of formerly drained wetlands in Carteret County to improved water quality in streams and estuaries and provide habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.
- Restored a 117 acre Pender County open wet pine savannah filled with rare plants using fire.
- Using herbicides and fire, reduced encroaching oak species in longleaf pine stands throughout the Sandhills region to benefit endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers.
- Restored native vegetation in several mountain bog sites for bog turtles.
- Used natural channel design to restore aquatic habitat in the upper Little Tennessee watershed for federally listed fish and mussels.

*What are some examples of Partnerships that promote habitat improvements for Federal Trust Species?*

Albermarle Pamlico Community Conservation Collaboration

Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration

Chatham Conservation Partnership

Dan River Coalition

Greater Uwharrie Conservation Partnership

North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council

North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership

Mitchell River Coalition

Onslow Bight Conservation Forum

Piedmont Prairie Partnership

Upper Tar Collaboration

*What is NC Partners?*

NC Partners is a Partnership among the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designed to help private landowners restore, enhance or create managed wetland habitat on their property for the benefit of waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wetland-dependent wildlife.

*How do I apply to Partners for Fish and Wildlife or NC Partners?*

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

### Additional Partners for Fish and Wildlife Contacts:

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