



APPALACHIAN  
MOUNTAINS  
JOINT VENTURE



## FOCAL LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE



The Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (AMJV) partnership is focused on preserving, managing, and restoring diverse, healthy forest habitats in the region to benefit not only birds, but the diversity of Appalachian plants and wildlife.

### OBJECTIVE

Our objective with this initiative is to achieve landscape-level benefits for our priority birds, demonstrated by stabilizing or increasing populations within the focal landscapes.

Our Focal Landscape Initiative **strategically targets our capacity and resources** to high-priority regions established by our partners within the AMJV geography.

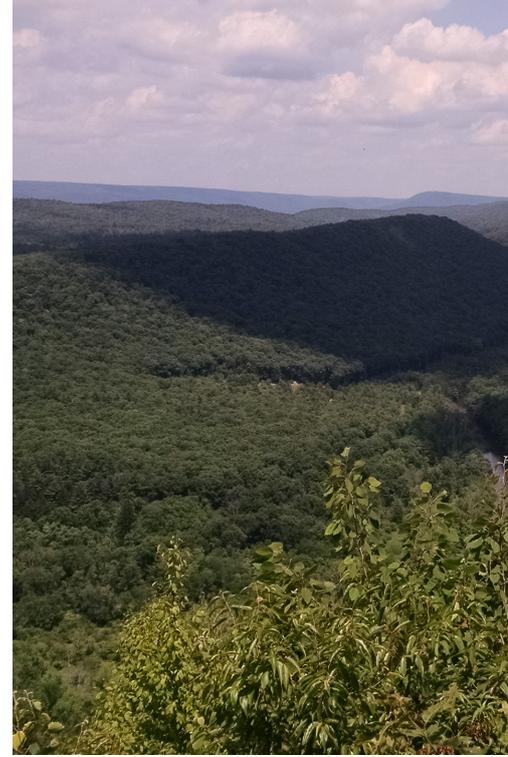
This approach maximizes our conservation impacts and make concrete steps towards improving habitat for our priority species.

We are developing this initiative in parallel with American Bird Conservancy's [BirdScapes](#).

---

# THE PROCESS

This is a “bottom-up” effort, with AMJV partners leading the development of individual focal landscapes across the AMJV geography and AMJV staff supporting and advising these efforts as needed. We are treating each landscape as a holistic system and leaning heavily on partners to identify the overarching objectives for each landscape, including priorities that are not bird-centric.



**Each focal landscape is developed based on the following criteria:**

## LOCAL PARTNER EXPERTISE AND INPUT

Existing partners working in the focal landscape, especially private and industry sector; funding prospects; needs of stakeholders; non-bird priorities.

## IMPORTANCE TO PRIORITY BIRDS

Concentration and trends of priority species; identification of priority species habitat or focal areas; current research; connectivity to wintering grounds; existing conservation plans.

## CONTAINS A MIX OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS

## EXTENT/CONDITION OF FOREST

Representative of types and conditions across the Appalachians; ability to achieve long-term desired conditions given initial forest composition; forest connectivity and level of fragmentation.

## LAND USES AND THREATS

What are major threats to birds and their habitat; what are drivers of threats; climate vulnerability/resiliency of the landscape.

## CHANCE OF SUCCESS AND BARRIERS TO CONSERVATION

Ability to establish long-term framework for operating in landscapes; ability to monitor and evaluate results; public attitudes towards management; commodity interests and influence (e.g., forest products market).

# FOCAL LANDSCAPES IN ACTION

*Southeastern  
Ohio*

The oak-dominated forests of southeastern Ohio are exceptionally valuable, both ecologically and economically. However, the complexity of ownership in this region, which is mostly private but includes multiple state forests and state wildlife areas, and Wayne National Forest, make it even more important to plan forest management across ownership boundaries and at the landscape-scale.

## FOCAL LANDSCAPE PARTNERS

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Division of Wildlife
- US Forest Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Ohio Cooperative Extension through Ohio State University and Central State University



## CURRENT PROJECTS

### *Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership*

The Joint Chiefs' Partnership in Ohio focuses on the coordination of oak management across Federal, state and private lands. Accomplishments to date includes 7,900 acres of prescribed fire and 21,000 acres of forest management on public land, as well as financial assistance to forest landowners for over 5,900 acres of management to promote oak on private lands. See report online at: [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_MEDIA/nrcseprd1462845.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MEDIA/nrcseprd1462845.pdf)

### *Hocking Plateau Shared Stewardship Project*

Ohio has an Interagency Forestry Team working in 17 counties to enhance habitat for a diversity of forest wildlife in Appalachia Ohio by restoring oak dominated forests. The team has increased capacity for landowner outreach in the region by hiring four new foresters. The Hocking Plateau Shared Stewardship project is a more targeted landscape scale effort that continues work accomplished under the Joint Chiefs' project through focused outreach and technical assistance efforts that use a new interagency business model with focal landscape partners.



(540) 951-9376 | [tfearer@abcbirds.org](mailto:tfearer@abcbirds.org) | [www.amjv.org](http://www.amjv.org)