



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.

The Focal Landscape approach **strategically targets capacity and resources** to high-priority regions, **maximizing conservation impacts** and making concrete steps toward improving habitat for priority species.

The goal of this approach is to support our partners' ability to:

- Focus limited capacity and resources in strategic locations, working across public and private lands.
- Enhance the diversity and health of habitat in the landscape using a holistic approach that considers the entire system, versus individual species or habitat types, over a long time-span (e.g. 10-20+ years).
- Integrate forest restoration efforts with bird conservation objectives.
- Enhance forest health and structure to benefit a diversity of wildlife.

# FOCAL LANDSCAPES IN ACTION

## *Southern Appalachian High Country Focal Landscape*



Photo by Laura Erickson

## GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The overall goals of work within this focal landscape in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia are to enhance capacity to expand successful local programs and partnerships, establish relationships with non-traditional partners to broaden the scope of conservation activities occurring in the region beyond current habitat management work, and facilitate landscape-level planning and coordination.

Priority habitats for this work include:

### **Oak/Hickory Forest**

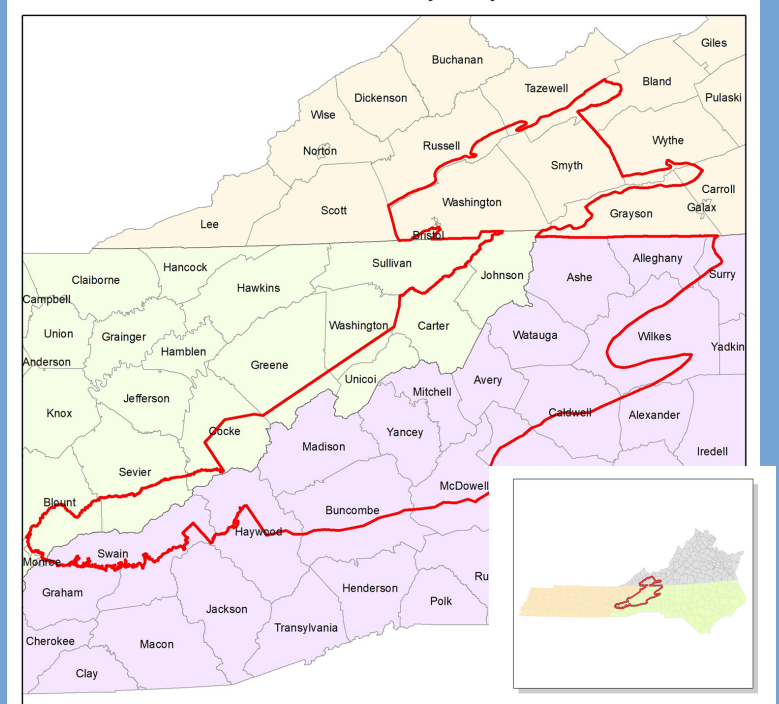
Key species: Ruffed Grouse, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Northern long-eared bat, Little brown bat

### **High-elevation Habitats** (Including Amphibolite Mtns)

Key species: Golden-winged Warbler, Carolina Northern Flying Squirrel, Spruce Fir Moss Spider, Northern pygmy salamander, Weller's salamander, Northern saw-whet owl, Red crossbill, *Geum radiatum*, *Liatris helleri*, Appalachian cottontail, Veery, Hermit Thrush

### **Riparian/Aquatic Systems** (including Mountain Bogs)

Key species: Bog turtle, Hellbender, Mussels, Belted Kingfisher, American Woodcock, pitcher plants



## FOCAL LANDSCAPE PARTNERS

**North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency** are lead partners for this focal landscape. Other partners include:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Appalachian State University
- University of Tennessee
- US Forest Service
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- NC Audubon
- NC State Parks
- TN State Parks
- East TN State University
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Blue Ridge Conservancy
- Mars Hill University
- NC Forest Service
- NE TN Regional Economic Partnership
- VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries



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