



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

## *Virginia Highlands Focal Landscape*



Photo by Greg Lavaty

## KEY ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

Work within this focal landscape will focus on addressing a number of key issues and threats:

- Decreased forest structural and age-class diversity
- Lack of prescribed fire
- Invasive species/pests/pathogens
- Loss of habitat connectivity
- Decreased water quality

Priority habitats and species for this work include:

Open Habitats - grasslands, shale barrens, limestone/dolomite glades, shrublands (old fields)

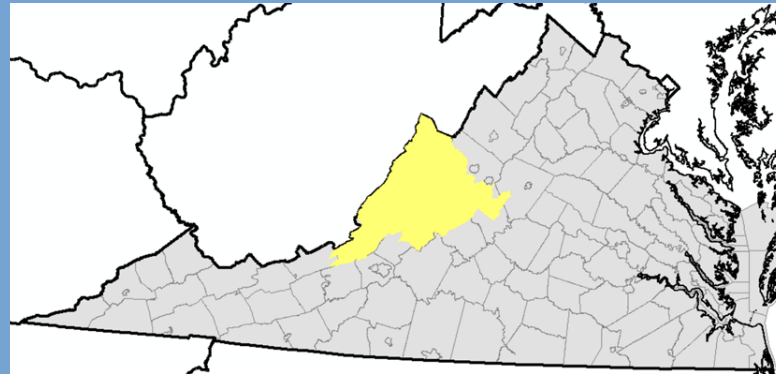
*Species:* Northern Bobwhite, Golden-winged Warbler, Peregrine Falcon, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Harrier, Mountain Earthsnake, Monarch Butterfly, Rusty Patch Bumblebee

Forests - High elevation Northern hardwoods/spruce, open woodlands, oak-hickory, pitch/table mountain pine/shortleaf

*Species:* Golden Eagle (Wintering), Cerulean Warbler, Wood Thrush, Canada Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo, American Woodcock, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Ruffed Grouse, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Red Crossbill, Kentucky Warbler, Timber Rattlesnake, Rusty Patch Bumblebee, Southern Rock Vole, Allegheny woodrat, Eastern spotted skunk, Fisher, Hibernating bats, Summer roosting bats

Aquatic Habitats - Wetlands (high and low elevation), riverine

*Species:* Belted Kingfisher, Bank Swallow, Green Heron, freshwater mussels, Eastern Brook Trout, James Spiny mussel, Roughhead Shiner, Longfin Darter, Southern Water Shrew



## FOCAL LANDSCAPE PARTNERS

**Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources** is the lead partner for this focal landscape. Other partners include:

- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage
- Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- US Forest Service
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Appalachian Lab
- Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science



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