

Appalachian LCC Conservation/Management Community

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REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



- **Appalachian Mountains (Bird) Joint Venture** The Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (AMJV) is a self-directed partnership of public, private and non-profit entities, organized to advance the conservation (protection, restoration, and enhancement) of priority bird populations and their habitats throughout the Appalachian Mountains Bird Conservation Region (AMBCR), including all or portions of 12 states from southern New York and northwestern New Jersey to northeastern Alabama. The over-arching objective of the AMJV, originally formed in 2007 and approved by USFWS in 2008, is to ensure the sustainability of native bird populations through strategic conservation of habitats and overall ecosystem functionality upon which native birds rely. The AMJV partnership has committed its support to achieve the goals and vision of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), and the conservation of habitats for all birds consistent with major national and continental bird conservation plans, as well as bird conservation objectives identified in Wildlife Action Plans of partner states.



- **Central Hardwoods (Bird) Joint Venture** The Central Hardwoods Joint Venture (CHJV) is a bird conservation partnership of State, Federal, and non-governmental organizations that endeavors to implement bird conservation actions that protect the long-term health of native bird species. Established in 2000, the boundaries of the CHJV encompass six states and the Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region - part of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative - a national strategy for conserving native bird species. Based on the principles of sound science and adaptive management, CHJV facilitates efficient landscape level planning targeting habitat with the most potential to support priority bird species populations. It should be noted that the CHJV has officially requested reassignment from the Appalachian LCC to the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC (a final decision was not reached at publication).
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Eastern Brook Trout **JOINT VENTURE** A Fish Habitat Partnership

Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (Fish Habitat Partnership)

The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) was established in 2004 out of concern for the health of the many populations of the only native Eastern trout species. Recognizing that many common threats existed across the Georgia to Maine range, state fishery managers joined together with federal agency representatives, private conservation groups and scientists to assess the problem and plan action. To date, EBTJV has completed the first ever range-wide assessment of Eastern brook trout, developed strategic action plans to conserve Eastern brook trout resources and communicated its efforts to other partners. The EBTJV's landscape-scale approach to Eastern brook trout conservation has positioned it to support many scientific studies, including climate change assessments. A direct monitoring approach across the EBTJV range to rank individual populations for resiliency to climate change has been initiated with a pilot study in Virginia. Climate change is predicted to extirpate many of the existing Eastern brook trout throughout their native range and eliminate them in Virginia. Relationships between air and water temperature will be quantified and modeled to rank the existing fish populations for their resiliency to climate change. These resiliency ratings can be used for prioritizing protection and restoration efforts in landscape-scale conservation planning.



Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership

Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership

The Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) is a fish habitat partnership under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. It was approved in 2009 as a collaborative between the 16 States that contain Atlantic coastal river drainages, Federal agencies, Tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other entities to conserve aquatic habitat along the Atlantic coast. The ACFHP is a geographically focused and scientifically based effort whose mission is to accelerate the conservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of habitat for native Atlantic coastal, estuarine-dependent and diadromous fishes through partnerships.



Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership

The Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership (ORBFHP), approved in October 2009, is a collaborative effort between State agencies, federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and commercial businesses that focuses conservation, restoration, and enhancement efforts on priority habitat for fish and mussels in the watershed of the Ohio River Basin for the benefit of the public.



The Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) was formed in 2001 around a vision of

healthy and diverse aquatic ecosystems supporting public use. It includes partners from conservation organizations, government agencies, and private corporations from 14 states. SARP focuses its efforts on six key areas; aquatic habitat conservation, public use, imperiled fish and aquatic species recovery, fishery mitigation, interjurisdictional fishes, and aquatic nuisance species. The founders saw the value of agencies and organizations working together to effectively meet the region's aquatic resource management and conservation challenges on a landscape scale. Previous efforts to halt the decline of aquatic resources in the southeast have been conducted independently on Federal, State, and local scales. SARP is addressing the conservation of aquatic resources on multiple scales and working to strengthen the efforts of partners regionally. SARP was one of the first regional partnerships to be recognized as an official partnership of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The goal of SARP is to conserve and restore aquatic wildlife and habitats in the southeastern U.S. The level of involvement of SARP ranges from partnering on individual projects to regional leadership.



Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

The Mission of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) is "To conserve amphibians, reptiles and their habitats as integral parts of our ecosystem and culture through proactive and coordinated public-private partnerships." PARC seeks to create an open forum for discussing herpetofaunal conservation and advocates for reptile and amphibian conservation. The organization is habitat focused, and supports conservation of both rare and more common species.



Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program

The Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program (HAP), established by Congress in July 2001, encompasses 79,000 square miles in the Central Appalachians of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. It is a collaborative between the EPA, local communities, state and local government, other federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, research institutions, and the private sector to carry out monitoring, research, management, and restoration activities within the region. The goals of the program are to improve water quality, living resources, and habitat, and to foster stewardship of resources through an outreach program for public information and education. HAP uses the best available science to improve the natural resources and socio-economic conditions in the Mid-Atlantic Highlands by achieving the following program goals:

- Highlighting, protecting, and conserving special places that have ecological and cultural importance;
- Highlighting important connections between these special places;
- Revitalizing damaged ecosystems especially in key ecological corridors;
- Empowering citizens and communities to strengthen the linkages among cultural heritage, economic viability and the condition of the environment;
- Enhancing opportunities for the restoration industry in the Highlands, which will enhance lasting employment opportunities for its residents; and
- Leveraging existing resources to support all these goals.

Appalachian Fire Learning Network

The Appalachian Fire Learning Network (AFLN) engages multiple federal, state and private land management agencies in a collaborative effort to implement ecological fire management. Within this biologically diverse region, the (AFLN) seeks to:

- collaborate with stakeholders to strengthen the scientific basis for landscape-scale fire management, and develop landscape-scale desired future conditions and fire management objectives for the Central, Southern and Western Appalachian Region;
- transfer knowledge and lessons learned throughout the Network to facilitate ecological objective setting, effective stakeholder engagement, efficient compliance with regulatory requirements and successful funding of ecological fire management projects;
- identify critical barriers to the restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems, and develop strategies to overcome these barriers; and
- achieve tangible and measurable progress in the restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems at demonstration sites throughout the AFLN.

Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network

The Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network engages multiple federal, state and private land management agencies in a collaborative effort to enhance the capacity to implement ecological fire management in the Southern Blue Ridge ecoregion. Together they work to define a healthy, resilient landscape and to identify where, when and how to restore these ecosystems. Expertise in numerous aspects of restoration is distributed among partners and researchers involved in the collaboration. Sharing this knowledge among partners and with other networks accelerates restoration. The partnership has identified shortleaf pine-oak, pine-oak-heath, dry-mesic oak-hickory and high-elevation red oak forests as target communities for restoring fire regimes. Partners in this regional network seek to restore and maintain fire adapted ecosystems on lands within the Southern Blue Ridge landscape under a model partnership of interested agencies and organizations which will work to increase the capacity for and reduce obstacles to conducting prescribed burning.



Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative

The Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative (CASRI) is a partnership of diverse interests with a common goal of restoring historic red spruce-northern hardwood ecosystems across the high elevation landscapes of Central Appalachia. It is comprised of private, State, Federal, and NGOs which recognize the importance of this ecosystem for its ecological, aesthetic, recreational, economic, and cultural values. Red spruce and red spruce-northern hardwood forests once dominated the highest elevations of West Virginia, covering more than 500,000 acres. Extensive logging in the late 1800s and early 1900s reduced much of the mature forest in the Appalachians, including the red spruce-dominated stands. Today only about 29,600 acres of high elevation red spruce remain.