

Foresters for the Birds

June 8, 2016



Foresters for the Birds Objectives

- Learn how small changes can make a big difference for birds in North Carolina forests.
- Discover how to write prescriptions benefitting birds into your forest management plans.
- Find out how to apply for funding to make those changes on qualifying private land.

Workshop Agenda

- 830-845 Welcome** (Aimee Tomcho, Conservation Biologist, Audubon North Carolina)
- 845-930 Audubon as Partners in Bird Conservation and Forest Management** (Curtis Smalling, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon North Carolina) -Birder's Dozen.
- 930-1015 Significance of Piedmont Forests** (Ron Myers, Forest Management Branch Head, North Carolina Forest Service).
- 1015-1030 Break
- 1030-1115 Bird Response to Forest Management** (Dr. Chris Moorman, Dept. of Forestry & Environmental Resources Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Program Coordinator, North Carolina State University)
- 1115-1145 Forest Landbird Legacy Program** (Aimee Tomcho)
- 1145-1230 Lunch provided on site
- 1230-100 Camp Cherokee Boy Scout Reservation– An FLLP Case Study** (David Halley, Consulting Forester, True North Forest Management Services)
- 100-400 Camp Cherokee – Piedmont Field Tour**
- 430 Adjourn



Forest Landbird Legacy Program

Aimee Tomcho, Audubon NC Conservation Biologist

The Forest Landbird Legacy Program

(FLLP) is a tool foresters can use to implement changes in forest habitat that benefit birds while complementing landowner goals.

We will:

- *Discover how FLLP provides cost-share opportunities for landowners who write birds into their forest management plan.*
- *Learn which practices qualify for cost-sharing opportunities*
- *Learn how to apply for funding to implement these forest practices on private lands.*



What is FLLP?

- Voluntary wildlife conservation program
- Private non-industrial forestland owners in North Carolina
- Build appreciation for songbirds and their forest habitats
- Provide recognition to landowners
- Promote forest management to sustain migratory bird populations
- Provide expert planning and financial assistance for restoration practices

Why should I participate?

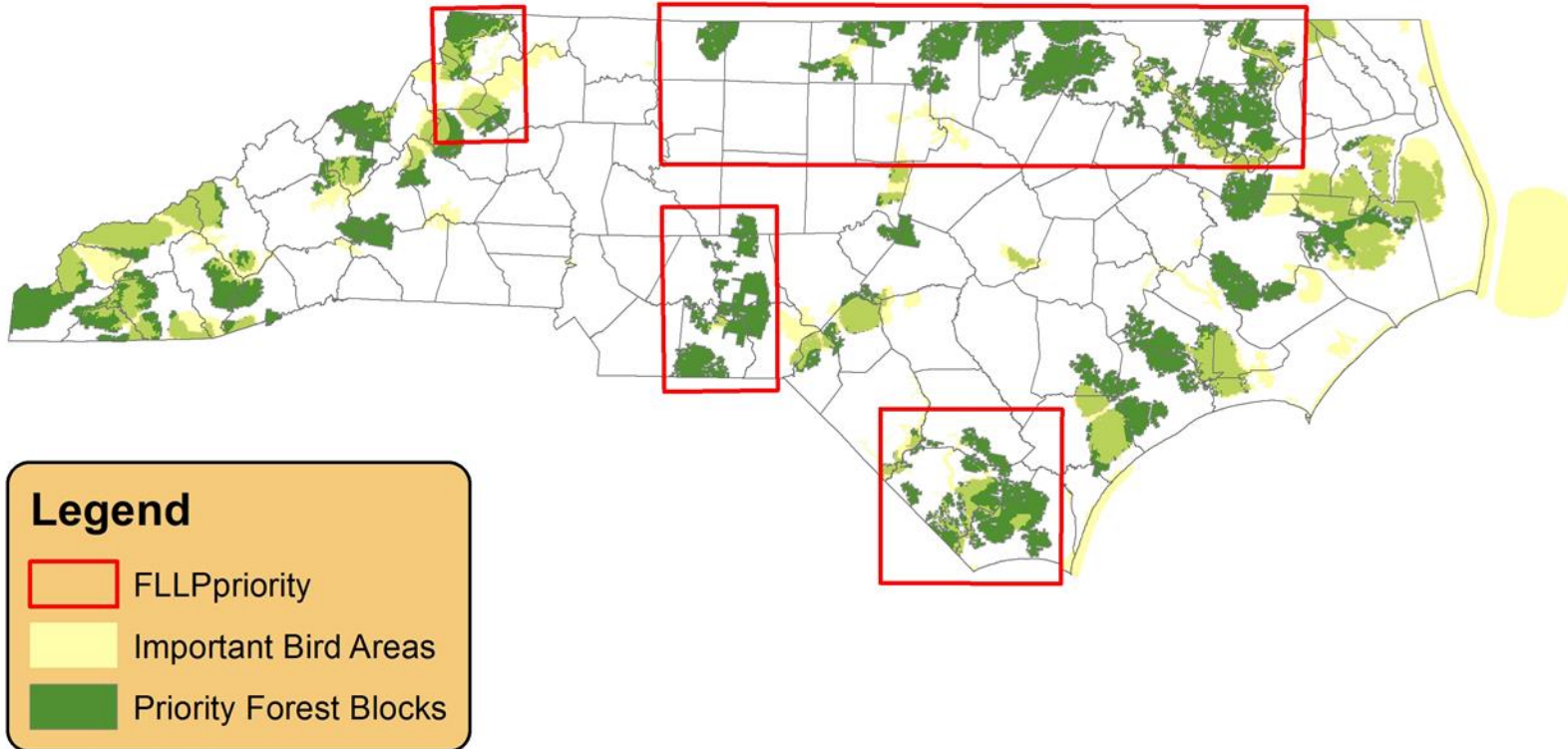
- To receive assistance from professional wildlife biologists and foresters
- To develop a landbird management plan
- To be reimbursement for a portion of costs incurred implementing a forest landbird conservation
- To receive a Forest Landbird Legacy sign and certificate recognizing their participation in the program and their commitment to bird conservation



Who can participate?



- Non-industrial forest landowners including private owners, partnerships, corporations, not-for-profits, local governments, and Indian tribes
- Government agencies and commercial forest industries cannot receive cost sharing.
- Planning assistance and program recognition may still be given to participants that are not eligible for cost share.
- **Land eligibility is determined by “the 50/50 rule” that calls for forests to be a minimum of 50 years old and 50 acres in size.**
- Exceptions may be made to the 50/50 rule if surrounding landscape contributes to the goals of the program.
- The program is available statewide with 4 main focal areas.



Focal Areas

Northern Piedmont – Uwharries - Coastal Plain - Mountains

How long do I have to participate in order to receive funding?

- 10-year agreement
- Implement and maintain recommended management
- Demonstrate their commitment to the FLLP goals by sharing a part of the cost to implement the conservation plan using their own resources which may include agreed-to materials, labor, or money.
- Potential to serve as a demonstration site (2 most recently funded projects)



When will I receive assistance and/or funding?



- After the project is completed and approved
- Treatments will be scheduled for completion within 24 months of signing the FLLP agreement.
- Each participant may only receive one cost-sharing agreement per year.
- Participants may reapply in subsequent years.
- No participant may receive more than \$10,000 reimbursement from FLLP.

How will others know I am participating in this program?

- A sign!
- A certificate!
- A STORY!

- Certified sites demonstrate the goal of the FLLP and serve to educate the public and recognize landowners who participate in the program.





What type of conservation work will be done on my land?

- Forest landbird conservation plans will be considerate of the participant's goals, values, concerns, and abilities.
- May include prescriptions for a variety of treatments such as snag creation, prescribed burning, tree-release cutting, creation of gaps in the canopy, and habitat improvement plantings.

How much work or money will I have to contribute?

- FLLP will contribute up to 75% of the cost of recommended actions.
- The participants are asked to provide a contribution of materials, labor, or money totaling at least 25% of the project cost.
- Project costs will be calculated based on the average state-wide cost of a practice (usually actual costs).
- Payments will be made to participants by Audubon North Carolina (provide invoice).





How do I apply to become part of this program?

- Contact a FLLP representative in your area to discuss your interest and schedule a site visit.
- Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the FLLP partnership.
- Those selected will be offered a participation agreement and cost-sharing if appropriate.

Sample Agreement and Application Format

- Refer to example agreement in your booklet.
- Let's “pick apart” some of the details!





Questions?