

# NEWS ADVOCATE

## **Financial assistance available to forest owners**

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A partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and American Bird Conservancy is offering financial assistance to forest owners in Michigan's Upper and Lower peninsulas to improve habitat for at-risk bird species and other wildlife.

Applications for 2022 funding are now being accepted by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service from private forest owners. The Improving Forest Health for At-Risk Wildlife Resources Partnership was created through the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The funding is intended to create young forest habitat for the benefit of the golden-winged warbler and other at-risk species.

Applications must be submitted by Jan. 14 to be considered for the first round of selections. Additional selections may be held later in the year if funds are available. The project area includes designated counties in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. In Michigan, landowners with property in counties from Manistee to Iosco counties northward, except for Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau, are eligible to apply.

Financial assistance is available to help with timber harvesting in aspen stands or mulching tag alder to create early successional habitat. In support of this work, there's also funding available to help with tree planting and site preparation, invasive species management, and more. In addition to improving habitat for the golden-winged warbler, many of these practices also improve habitat for other wildlife, such as ruffed grouse, woodcock and white-tailed deer.

Source: <https://www.manisteenews.com/local-news/article/Financial-assistance-available-to-forest-owners-16683026.php>