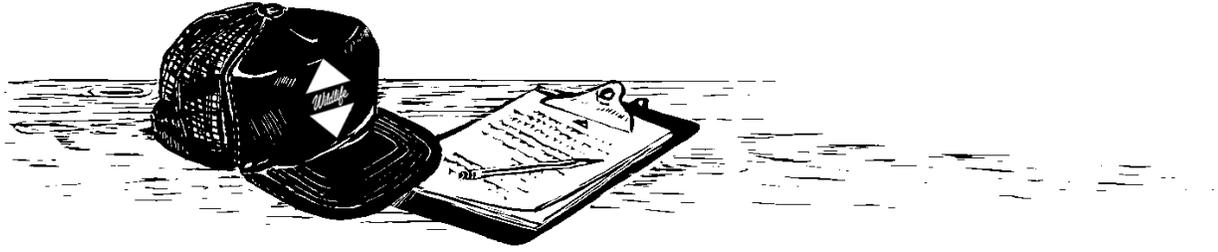


## 9 Wildlife Management Technical and Financial Assistance



The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) employs biologists devoted to private lands issues. These professionals can provide assistance on a variety of land-management issues, including habitat management for game and nongame species. Biologists are available to assist with workshops and to meet with groups of landowners with similar management goals. Contact NCWRC's Division of Wildlife Management (919) 707-0050 for the name and phone number of the appropriate biologist to assist with your project.

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission also provides literature on a variety of private lands management issues, including the *Upland Gazette*, which focuses on early-successional habitats and small game issues. Commission biologists also can provide information on the current availability of state and federal cost-share programs to assist with selected management practices.



NCWRC has entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to establish biologist positions in each of North Carolina's three Regional NRCS offices. They work with Federal Farm Bill programs: the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and other programs as needed. These Farm Bill programs provide a variety of cost-share programs to assist landowners with wildlife habitat management. Contact your local USDA Service Center for more information about these programs.

Programs under the Farm Bill offer opportunities ranging from cost share for forest and field-management practices to benefit wildlife, to annual rental payments for unproductive field edges converted to wildlife habitat, to payments for restoring drained farm and forest land back to wetlands. North Carolina landowners have used Farm Bill Programs successfully to accomplish wildlife management goals. However, programs and funding opportunities change frequently. Fortunately, NCWRC wildlife biologists, the local staff in USDA Service Centers, and USDA Web sites provide up-to-date information on current opportunities.

Three sources of conservation technical assistance and cost share are housed together in USDA Service Centers located across the state. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides leadership in the conservation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources. The NRCS offers technical assistance, cost share for selected practices, and cooperative conservation programs to landowners and land managers. Working closely with NRCS are Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). SWCD provide technical assistance and cost-share incentives to landowners to install a variety of best management practices through state and federal conservation programs. The NC Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers and delivers several price-support, farm-loan, and farm-assistance programs including conservation programs. The best known is the Conservation Reserve Program, which includes a variety of practices designed to improve conservation of crop and pastureland.

Program information specific to North Carolina can be found at the NC Farm Service Agency Web site.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] Office of North Carolina Ecological Services works to protect endangered and threatened species, migratory birds and migratory fish, and wildlife habitat in North Carolina. Their biologists administer several programs that provide technical assistance to private landowners. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is the USFWS's primary mechanism for delivering voluntary on-the-ground habitat-improvement projects on private lands for the benefit of federal trust species. [See *North Carolina Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Program* for information and contacts concerning longleaf-pine management. The Safe Harbor Program also can assist landowners with management of the red-cockaded woodpecker on private lands.]



The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources (NCDFR) provides technical assistance on forest management and administers some state and federal cost-share programs related to forest management. The NCDFR also can directly facilitate prescribed burns through fire-line construction and conducting burns.

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service offers landowners and citizens access to the resources and expertise of N.C. State University and N.C. A&T State University. Cooperative Extension field faculty offer educational programs and publications and also provide landowners with research-based answers to management questions.



## Financial Incentives and Assistance Programs

Financial incentives available to landowners vary from year to year depending on available funding. There are numerous state, federal, and private programs that can facilitate wildlife management. When you have a management plan in place, check with agencies and organizations concerning programs, incentives, and sign-up dates. Federal and state programs often have rigid technical specifications and inspections to assure that program goals are met. Patience is frequently required to negotiate the maze of forms, agreements, and audits that accompany government conservation programs.

Contact the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for information concerning longleaf pine management including the Safe Harbor Program, which can assist landowners with management of the red-cockaded woodpecker on private lands.

Private conservation organizations that are active in North Carolina and can provide landowners with helpful information include:

- Audubon North Carolina**
- Conservation Trust for North Carolina**
- Ducks Unlimited**
- Eastern Native Grassland Alliance**
- Longleaf Alliance**
- National Bobwhite Technical Committee**
- National Wild Turkey Federation**
- North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council**
- North Carolina Wildlife Federation**
- Quail Forever**
- Quail Unlimited**
- Quality Deer Management Association**
- Ruffed Grouse Society**
- Tall Timbers Research Station**
- The Nature Conservancy**

These organizations can be located online at [www.ncwildlife.org/tarheelwildlife](http://www.ncwildlife.org/tarheelwildlife).

