

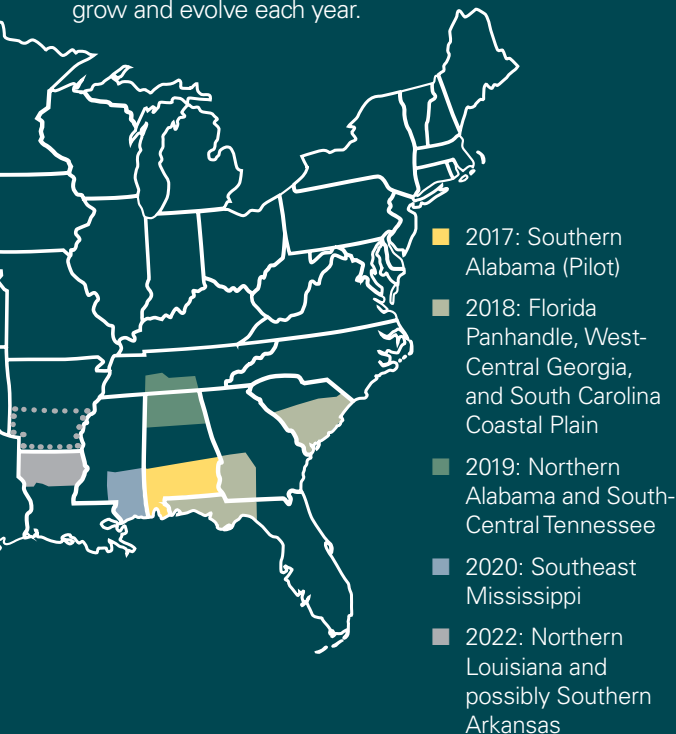
2022 PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT

WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THE FOLLOWING PROGRESS RESULTING FROM THIS PARTNERSHIP, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021.



ACTIVE LANDSCAPES

Landscapes are chosen based on common priorities and include consideration of areas with the greatest landowner need and opportunity. Each landscape has at least one PFW biologist with an established network of partners and trust within the selected counties. Since the first landscape was piloted in 2017, this collaborative partnership has continued to grow and evolve each year.



In September 2017, the American Forest Foundation (AFF) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program established a collaborative partnership to support conservation efforts for federally designated at-risk and listed species on private lands within the southeast. Our shared goals include:

- 1) PROVIDE FUNDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** on private lands in focused and strategic locations to support conservation efforts for federally listed and at-risk and species;
- 2) INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES** to engage private landowners and build trust;
- 3) GATHER SPECIES DATA** on private lands to inform classification recommendations/determinations and assist with recovery planning;
- 4) REDUCE THE REGULATORY BURDEN** on private landowners resulting from federal listing of additional species; and
- 5) PROVIDE REGULATORY PREDICTABILITY** to private landowners who improve habitat and manage land to support the conservation of federally designated at-risk and listed species.

To participate in this financial assistance program, interested landowners work with PFW biologists to develop a habitat improvement plan that meets their long-term objectives for the property. Landowners sign a non-regulatory agreement with the Service and AFF for a minimum of 10 years, which formalizes financial and technical service commitments between the landowner, AFF, and the Service. Landowners receive cost share financial assistance for habitat improvement practices completed on their land, consistent with their plan and the agreement. In return, landowners commit to provide land stewardship to their improved land for the duration of the agreement, as well as work with the Service and AFF to monitor project outcomes and collect species data on current and future populations.



American
Forest
Foundation



LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT



102 = Landowners have engaged with PFW biologists, expressing desire and need for habitat improvement and/or technical assistance on their land.



67 = Landowners have met with a PFW biologist and received technical assistance.



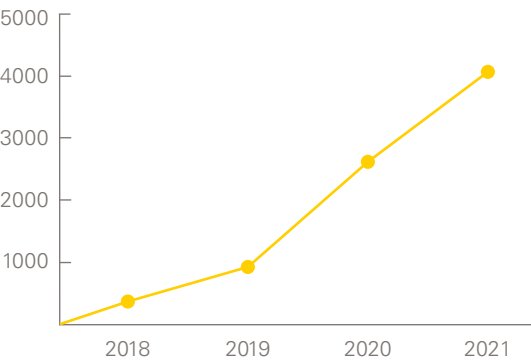
41 = Landowners have signed a 10-year agreement with AFF & the Service to maintain habitat and allow monitoring of listed and at-risk species on their land.

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HABITAT IMPROVED



7,880 = Acres under landowner agreements for habitat improvement and monitoring for federally listed and at-risk species.



EXAMPLES OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT INCLUDE:



3,297 = Acres of longleaf pine established.



3,392 = Acres of prescribed fire on existing stands.

SPECIES IMPACT

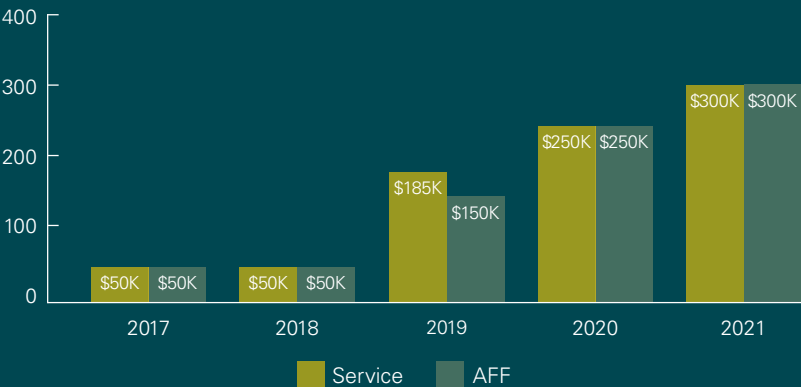
Examples of the focal species impacted through this initiative include gopher tortoise, eastern diamondback rattlesnake, eastern indigo snake, black pinesnake, red cockaded woodpecker, finelined pocketbook, rush darter, flattened musk turtle, and Venus flytrap.



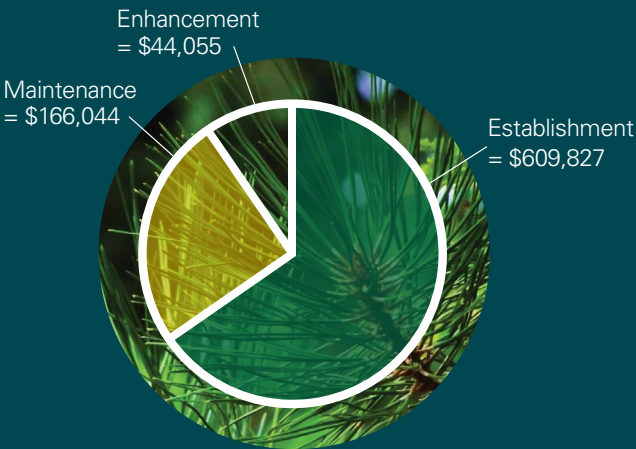
Many at-risk and listed species will spend at least part of their life cycle on private lands where information about species population and habitat health is not readily available. Because private lands dominate the landscape in the southeastern US, it is critical to work with these landowners for the conservation of species and ensure ecosystem health. Landowners who participate in this initiative are contributing important species and habitat data to assist land managers and natural resource agencies understand the types and level of conservation occurring on private lands throughout the region.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

A GROWING COMMITMENT: To date, AFF and the Service have committed a combined \$1,635,000 to the partnership.



ON THE GROUND: AFF and the Service have allocated \$819,926 in habitat improvements for listed and at-risk wildlife.



LANDOWNERS HAVE PROVIDED \$777,784 IN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.

ADDITIONAL STAFFING RESOURCES:

Since 2017, PFW biologists have **logged over 448 hours** in staff time working with private landowners and regional partners to develop and implement projects, provide technical assistance, and monitor species as part of this partnership. Staff hours for program administration include more than **565 hours** from the Service and more than **1,240 hours** from AFF.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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