

Bird-friendly Working Forests

It is possible to manage your forestland for better habitat, increased wildlife, and more enjoyment!



6-year-old shortleaf pine with prescribed fire - Jason Ellis, Fairchild State Forest



Open pine with quality shrubs - Austin Klais

Shortleaf pines thrive with prescribed fire, and young trees can resprout after fire if top-killed, increasing the ability to manage for an open understory at young ages.

Periodic thinning and prescribed fire maintains native grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs that encourage Northern Bobwhite Quail and Eastern Wild Turkey to move in and stay.



Northern Bobwhite-James Childress



Prairie Warbler-James Childress



Eastern Wild Turkey-James Childress

Leaving a few standing dead trees is good for cavity nesters such as the Brown-headed Nuthatch and Red-headed Woodpecker shown at right.



Brown-headed Nuthatch-J. Childress



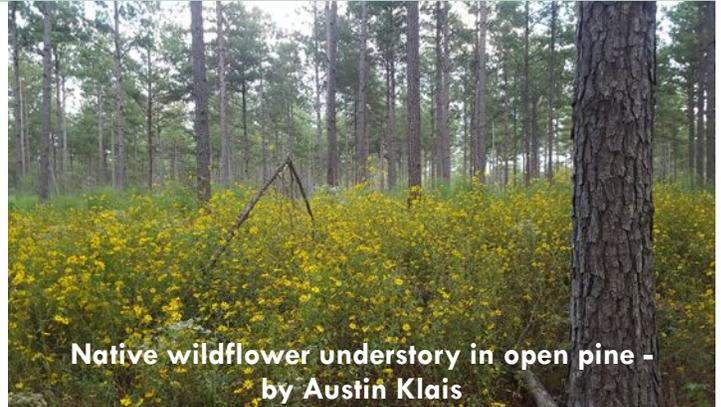
Red-headed Woodpecker-J. Childress

How would you like to take your pine plantation from this ...

to this?



Dense pine plantation - Bill Bartush



Native wildflower understory in open pine - by Austin Klais



The AR-LA Open Pine Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

This program helps eligible landowners restore dense forest lands to open woodland, savannah, or prairie with native grasses and wildflowers that support many species of wildlife. Funding is available through 2027 in the counties and parishes shown here for three stewardship tools used to manage open pine:

- Forest/Woodland Stand Improvements (Full forest treatment—commercial thinning, mechanical, chemical)
- Prescribed fire (excellent in combination with mid-rotation thinning)
- Bird Monitoring (to identify the effects and need for additional work)

These practices help wildlife and also reduce hazardous fuels and the threat of wildfire while improving watershed conditions. Learn how to apply through Natural Resources Conservation Service county offices [<https://tinyurl.com/Ar-LaRCPP>] or partner biologists.



“Almost 40 years to the day, we went without quail on this property. We didn't see them, didn't hear them, and just this past Memorial Day weekend...we heard some quail! In less than three years time, we've been able to work with these partners in conservation, and after a 40 year absence a species has returned!”

-Miles Goggans,
Arkansas landowner

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Henslow's Sparrow - J. Childress

Open pine and prairie are the preferred habitats for many migratory birds that overwinter in the South, such as Henslow's and Le Conte's Sparrows.



Le Conte's Sparrow - J. Childress